



VORTEX ICE

by Jonathan Morris

THE DOCTOR: COLIN BAKER
Space-time traveller.

FLIP: LISA GREENWOOD
Space-time traveller's companion.

SAI CHOPRA:
(F, 60, INDIAN DESCENT) Firm, fair, pragmatic.

DYLAN ARGENT:
(M, 40, FRENCH DESCENT) Egotistical, offhand.

HOLLY WHITFIELD:
(F, 30, ENGLISH DESCENT) Ambitious, genial.

JANNIK WOOLF:
(M, 30, GERMAN DESCENT) Mistrustful, nervous.

DIRECTOR: KEN BENTLEY

SCRIPT EDITOR: ALAN BARNES

PRODUCER: DAVID RICHARDSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: NICHOLAS BRIGGS & JASON HAIGH-ELLERY

BIG FINISH PRODUCTIONS LTD © 2016

PART ONE

(OPENING THEME)

SCENE 1. INT. NARROW SHAFT.

FX: NARROW CAVE, BARELY A METRE WIDE. DRIPPING WATER.

(CAST ARE SLIDING OVER SLIPPERY ROCK AND SQUEEZING THROUGH GAPS. ALL VOICES HUSHED, TO AVOID SETTING OFF A ROCK-FALL.)

SAI: (LEADING THE GROUP)
... Careful, Holly. One false move –

HOLLY:
– could bring the whole lot down, yeah yeah.

SAI:
It's no joking matter. This tunnel is the only way in – or out.

DYLAN:
(FROM UP AHEAD) Choke up ahead for five, ten metres.

SAI:
After that?

DYLAN:
(STRETCHES TO LOOK) Can't see. Gonna be a tight squeeze.

FX: THEY STOP MOVING AT THIS POINT.

SAI:
Map? Jannik?

JANNIK:
Hold on. (FX: USES ELECTRONIC GADGET LIKE AN IPAD, IT CREATES A HOLOGRAM MAP) If we are where I think we are –

HOLLY:
(SARCASTIC LAUGH) If!

JANNIK:
– we're approaching the northern shaft. If it's clear, that should give us access to the lower levels.

SAI:
How sure are you?

JANNIK:
As sure as I can be, given that the compass is playing silly-beggars.

HOLLY:

A bad workman (always) –

JANNIK:

It's not my fault. (FX: GADGET MAKES PHHHT! NOISE, SO HE BANGS IT. IT DEACTIVATES.) There must be magnetic interference.

SAI:

Just not keen on us getting caught in another dead-end.

HOLLY:

(MUTTERS) If you'd listened to me...

DYLAN:

Look, shall I just go on ahead?

SAI:

Not without my say-so. Alright, Holly, you clearly have something to say, so let's hear it.

FX: WHITFIELD BRIEFLY SWITCHES ON A GEIGER COUNTER-ISH GADGET.

HOLLY:

Just that the ion emission count has been increasing for the last half hour. We're getting warmer.

JANNIK:

(SARCASTIC) Well, we are two hundred metres below sea level.

SAI:

You mean we're heading the right way?

HOLLY:

I mean, whatever we're looking for is somewhere on the other side of those rocks.

SAI:

Assuming there's a way through.

JANNIK:

If there isn't, that's it, we'll have to turn back.

SAI:

We haven't come this far to turn back. Okay. Dylan, on you go.

DYLAN:

Right. (SQUEEZES THROUGH ROCKS)

SAI:

Carefully. I want to be able to see you every step of the way.

DYLAN:

(MUTTERS TO HIMSELF) I'm always careful.

FX: SMALL ROCK FALL, MOSTLY PEBBLES.

SAI, HOLLY, JANNIK: (REACT, HOLDING BREATH)

FX: ROCK FALL STOPS.

HOLLY:

(LAUGHS WITH RELIEF) If that's careful, I'd hate to know what you're like when you're clumsy.

SAI:

Dylan?

DYLAN:

(SQUEEZING) I'm fine. Just had a bit of a scare, that's all.

SAI:

Right. But take it slowly. This mine has enough ghosts in it without us joining them.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 2. INT. MINE WORKING.

FX: WATER DRIPPING HERE. TARDIS LANDS. DOOR OPENS.

DOCTOR:

(EMERGES, FX: SWITCHES ON TORCH) A cave. No, these walls have been excavated. A mine!

(NOTE: FLIP IN THIS EPISODE KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN ADVANCE BUT PRETENDS SHE DOESN'T TO AVOID MAKING THE DOCTOR SUSPICIOUS. ALTHOUGH THE DOCTOR HAS ALSO BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS BEFORE HE HAS LOST HIS MEMORY OF HAVING DONE SO, SO HE IS ACTING COMPLETELY AS NORMAL.)

FLIP:

(EMERGES) We're underground?

DOCTOR:

Going by the ambient pressure, seven hundred feet underground.

FLIP:

Ambient pressure? You took a reading from the TARDIS console before we left, I saw you.

DOCTOR:

(DEFENSIVE) I was merely ascertaining our location and date.

FX: HE LOCKS TARDIS.

FLIP:

I think it's sweet that you still try to impress me. So where is this mine, then?

DOCTOR:

Earth. Northern Mexico, Chihuahua.

FLIP:

Where the little dogs come from?

DOCTOR:

Where, as you say, the little dogs come from.

FLIP:

(EXHALES) No wonder it's so hot.

DOCTOR:

The temperature is due to our depth, not our latitude.

FLIP:

What, cos we're approaching the Earth's core?

DOCTOR:

... Not quite.

FX: THEY WALK ON, FLIP LEADING THE WAY.

FLIP:

No? (REACTING TO HEAT, WAFTING TOP) Like an oven, though. When-abouts are we? Past or future?

DOCTOR:

As far as you're concerned, the present, give or take a few years.

FLIP:

So what are we doing here?

DOCTOR:

(SOMETHING AMISS?) You're full of questions today, Flip.

FLIP:

(COVERING — SHE'S BEEN ASKING TOO MANY) Aren't I normally? We didn't arrive by accident, did we?

DOCTOR:

No, the TARDIS detected some exotic particles uncharacteristic of this planet.

FLIP:

Uncharacteristic? You mean they're alien?

DOCTOR:

Extra-terrestrial. "Alien" is a relative term.

FLIP:

That explains that look in your eye.

DOCTOR:

What look?

FLIP:

That 'I've found a mystery' look. You love it!

DOCTOR:

I admit to taking a certain degree of satisfaction in the pursuit of knowledge -

FX: THE CAVE WALL CRUMBLES OPEN, SMALL ROCKS BEING DISLODGED.

FLIP:

(REACTS) Doctor — the wall! Someone's coming out —

DOCTOR:

Yes. It seems we have company.

DYLAN:

(PICKING HIMSELF UP, SEEING THEM) *Sacre bleu!*

DOCTOR:

Ah. You have the quizzical look of a man who's wondering what we're doing here.

DYLAN:

You could say that.

SAI: (OFF)

Dylan, what is it? Are you alright?

DYLAN:

I'm fine. But you've gotta see this for yourself, cos you're not gonna believe it.

FX: DYLAN HAULS SAI THROUGH.

DOCTOR:

(WHISPER TO FLIP) Flip. They don't appear to be armed, but be careful.

FLIP:

Will do.

SAI:

(EMERGING FROM GAP) So, what have you got for – oh my.

DOCTOR:

Hello!

FLIP:

Hiya!

SAI:

How the hell did you get down here?

DOCTOR:

We're... um...

FLIP:

Tourists.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Tourists.

FLIP:

Sightseeing.

DOCTOR:

Seeing the sights.

FLIP:

And we got lost.

DOCTOR:

Hopelessly misplaced ourselves.

FLIP:

And we fell down a hole.

DOCTOR:

Whoops-a-daisy!

FLIP:

Then we got lost again.

DOCTOR:

No sense of direction.

FLIP:

And ended up here. True story.

FX: JANNIK CLAMBERS IN.

JANNIK:

(EMERGING FROM HOLE) What's going on? (BEAT) Who are they?!

DOCTOR:

How many more of you are in there?

DYLAN:

Answer the question. Who are you?

DOCTOR:

I'm the Doctor, this is my friend Philippa Jackson -

FLIP:

But you can call me Flip.

DOCTOR:

And we're clearly no threat. Your turn. Why are you here?

SAI:

We are here as part of a classified speleological research group.

DOCTOR:

Classified speleological research?

FLIP:

Doctor, what's speel -

DOCTOR:

The study of caves.

FLIP:

Oh, right, yeah.

FX: HOLLY SQUEEZES OUT OF GAP.

HOLLY:

Who are you talking to - oh!

SAI:

This is Holly Whitfield, physicist. The belligerent Frenchman is Dylan Argent, expert caver, and the German is Jannik Woolf, exobiologist.

DOCTOR:

An exobiologist? Interesting.

SAI:

And I am Professor Sai Chopra, leader of this expedition.

DOCTOR:

Professor, I think we might be able to come to a mutually beneficial arrangement.

SAI:

What?

DOCTOR:

Pool our resources. After all, we're both looking for the same thing - alien life!

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 3a. INT. MINE WORKING.

FX: JANNIK IS PASSING AROUND FLASK, UNWRAPPING NUTRI-BARS.

JANNIK:

You're not letting them come with us, Professor?

SAI:

I don't see that I have any choice, Jannik. (DRINKS)

JANNIK:

But we don't know anything about them.

SAI:

So where would you rather have them? Where we can see them - or between us and the way out? If they caused a rockfall -

JANNIK:

I take your point.

DYLAN:

(BITES BAR) One of us could go back with them.

SAI:

And who would you nominate, Dylan? We're all essential to the mission.

JANNIK:

Alright, they can come with us. But I don't trust them.
(DRINKS)

SAI:

I'm not asking you to trust them. I'm asking you to keep an eye on them.

CROSS TO:

SCENE 3b. INT. MINE WORKING. [CONTINUOUS]

FX: MOVE TO OTHER GROUP, A LITTLE WAY AWAY. DOCTOR ACTIVATES A CHIRRUPING, BLEEPING GIZMO.

HOLLY:

What's that?

DOCTOR:

A more sophisticated version of your own detector... Yes. The source of the exotic particles is almost directly beneath us.

FX: GIZMO OFF.

HOLLY:

So it's just a question of getting down there.

FLIP:

What do you think it is, the source?

HOLLY:

Impossible to say. Unless your friend has any ideas?

DOCTOR:

Me? No, I'm as in the dark as you are. Quite literally. Tell me, what led you to this mine?

HOLLY:

A satellite scanning for neutrinos picked up an energy spike, like nothing anybody had ever seen before.

DOCTOR:

So this source isn't a new development?

HOLLY:

No. It could have been there forever. But obviously it might have some connection to the disaster.

FLIP:

What disaster?

HOLLY:

A hundred years ago there was an explosion. Only twenty miners made it out alive, the ones working on the upper levels. The rest were crushed, or trapped. Their bodies were never recovered.

FLIP:

How many were there?

HOLLY:

Over a hundred. But you must know this!

DOCTOR:

I'm afraid we skimped on our research. So you've opened up the mine?

HOLLY:

We blasted our way into the upper level, and we've been working our way down ever since.

FLIP:

How long have you been down here?

SAI:

(JOINING THEM) Two days.

FLIP:

Woah.

SAI:

Why, how long have you been down here?

FLIP:

Oh, about the same, two days, yeah, the same.

SAI:

I see. Well, I've spoken to the others and we've agreed that you can join us.

DOCTOR:

Excellent.

SAI:

On two conditions. One - you give us your full co-operation.

DOCTOR:

It will be a pleasure.

FLIP:

And condition two?

SAI:

That both of you do exactly as I say. Any disobedience and I'll have you both tied up - and then you'd better just hope that we remember to untie you on our way out.

DOCTOR:

In that case... your word is our command.

SAI:

Alright. In five minutes we're gonna make an abseil descent of the northern shaft. Holly, if you could help us set up?

HOLLY:

Yes, boss!

FX: HOLLY AND SAI LEAVE.

FLIP:

(HUSHED) Alright, Doctor, what is it?

DOCTOR:

What's what?

FLIP:

You're not telling them something. Well, you can tell me.

DOCTOR:

The exotic particles are comprised of Artron energy.

FLIP:

Is that supposed to mean something?

DOCTOR:

Artron energy is usually only found within the brain of a Time Lord... or a TARDIS.

FLIP:

So this thing everyone's looking for, is probably a Time Lord?

DOCTOR:

(APPREHENSIVE SIGH) Yes.

FLIP:

But that's good news isn't it? One of your people.

DOCTOR:

So one would hope, but I can think of several likely candidates with whom I have no great desire to be re-acquainted.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 4. INT. LARGE CAVE.

FX: DEEP ECHO, DRIPPING WATER. ZIPPING SOUND OF ABSEILING GADGET. FLIP IS DESCENDING FROM ABOVE US WITH A SUCCESSION OF JOLTS AND SWINGS AGAINST THE ROCK FACE, GETTING CLOSER.

FLIP:

(ABSEILING, LOVING IT) Woah! Coming down! Watch out below!

DYLAN:

(CALLING UP TO HER) Use the brake bar! You're going too fast!

FLIP:

(ABSEILING) I'll be the judge of that, mate!

SAI:

Doctor, is your... friend always so reckless?

DOCTOR:

Always. It's one of her most likeable qualities. She reminds me of myself, when I was in my early five-hundreds.

DYLAN:

Careful, you're nearly there, three metres, two –

FX: FLIP LANDS NEATLY.

FLIP:

(LANDS) Woah! That was awesome. I get why you do this caving lark.

SAI:

It's no 'lark'. (CALLS UP) Alright, Jannik, your turn!

FX: ABSEILING GADGET GOES ZIPPP! AS IT'S SENT BACK UP THE ROPE.

FLIP:

Blimey, it's like a topical rainforest down here.

DOCTOR:

Yes, it must be nearly one-hundred percent humidity.

FX: JANNIK DESCENDING ON ROPE, RAPIDLY, SLIPPING.

DYLAN:

(CALLS UP) Jannik, slow down! For heaven's sake –

FX: JANNIK LANDS HEAVILY.

JANNIK:

(LANDS WITH THUD, OUCH)

SAI:

Jannik, are you alright?

JANNIK:

(GETS UP) The stupid descender didn't grip. The rope's soaking wet, was slipping right through the bobbin.

SAI:

Well, we'll have to bear that in mind on the way back... Right, Holly, which way?

FX: HOLLY USES GADGET.

HOLLY:

One of those two tunnels, that way or... that way. Oh no.

FX: GADGET OFF.

FLIP:

What is it?

HOLLY:

One of the miners.

FX: THEY WALK ABOUT, JANNIK AND DYLAN MOVING AWAY.

JANNIK:

(PERTURBED) There are more over there... A dozen at least.

SAI:

Alright, Jannik, Holly, we were expecting this, we all knew what we were gonna find, so let's keep it together.

FLIP:

(INTRIGUED RATHER THAN AFRAID) But they're just... skeletons.

HOLLY:

Well, it has been a hundred years.

FLIP:

Yeah, but they're not buried. Which means they didn't die in a rockfall.

DOCTOR:

And there's air down here, so they didn't asphyxiate. And they could gather condensation to drink; the tunnel walls down here are dripping wet.

FLIP:

So they starved to death?

DYLAN:

More likely the heat got them first.

HOLLY:

Stuck down here, in the dark. I wonder if they thought they would be rescued, or whether they just gave up.

SAI:

I told you to keep it together. (BEAT) Right, two tunnels - we split into two groups. Jannik, Dylan, you take that one. Holly, Doctor, Flip, with me.

FLIP:

Okay, boss.

SAI:

Back here in fifteen minutes. And no disappearing acts. That's an order.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 5. INT. CAVE (SPACESHIP).

FX: GROUP WALKING THROUGH NARROW TUNNEL, WATER DRIPPING.

DOCTOR:

This must've been one of the last tunnels to be excavated.

FLIP:

How can you possibly know that?

DOCTOR:

The salt seam has only been partially mined.

FLIP:

Maybe they gave up because of the heat.

DOCTOR:

(GOING AHEAD) Maybe...

HOLLY:

Your friend seems right at home.

FLIP:

Yes, this is a normal day out for us. What about you? Spend a lot of time down abandoned mines?

HOLLY:

Not really. I've spent the last ten years as a lab monkey at Caltech, then this job came up, and I put my name forward.

FLIP:

You volunteered?

HOLLY:

If we do find something down here, this could be my big break. A new form of energy, alien artefacts. Hello!

FX: SHE BREAKS A LUMP OF ROCK OFF THE WALL.

FLIP:

What are you doing?

HOLLY:

That's blue halite. I told my daughter I'd bring her back a present.

FX: PUTS ROCK IN BACKPACK.

FLIP:

(KNOWS SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO HOLLY) You have a daughter?

HOLLY:

Yes. Chloe. Two years old. It's her birthday party next week, we delayed it until I could be there, when they're that age they don't notice. Sorry, are you alright?

FLIP:

(TRYING NOT TO BE VISIBLY UPSET) I'm fine, fine. She must be very proud of her mum, going off exploring.

HOLLY:

I don't think she really understands.

FLIP:

No, but she will -

FX: SHE IS CUT OFF BY HOLLY SEEING SOMETHING UP AHEAD.

HOLLY:

Oh my - what is that?!?

FX: HOLLY RUNS. THEY EMERGE INTO ACOUSTICALLY LARGE CAVE.

FLIP:

Oh wow! Looks like a giant metal golf ball that's been smashed to pieces.

DOCTOR:

Indeed. The miners must have uncovered it during their excavations.

FX: SAI PICKS UP OIL LAMP.

SAI:

They abandoned their lamps. They must have left in a hurry.

HOLLY:

But this... is incredible. Fantastic. (FX: CAMERA) We have to record this. Every detail.

FX: SHE STARTS TAKING PHOTOS, MEASUREMENTS, READINGS.

SAI:

I've never seen metal like that before, Doctor.

FX: DOCTOR USES HIS DETECTOR GIZMO.

DOCTOR:

Well, you wouldn't have, because you're looking at the remains of an alien spaceship. And I'll tell you something else.

SAI:

What?

DOCTOR:

It's not the source of the exotic particles.

SCENE 6. INT. TUNNEL.

FX: JANNIK AND DYLAN IN ECHOEY TUNNEL.

DYLAN:

This place is like a maze.

FX: JANNIK CHECKS IPAD GADGET.

JANNIK:

None of this area is on the map, it must have been excavated before the disaster.

FX: GADGET OFF. DYLAN HALTS.

DYLAN:

Looks like we've come to a dead end. In more ways than one.

JANNIK:

Poor fellows, they must have been killed when the roof caved in.

DYLAN:

No.

JANNIK:

No?

FX: DYLAN PULLS AT ROCKS EXPERIMENTALLY.

DYLAN:

These stones are loose. They could have dug themselves free.

JANNIK:

Meaning?

DYLAN:

Meaning they were dead before the roof caved in.

JANNIK:

Well, there's no way through... Maybe we should try one of these other tunnels.

DYLAN:

Yeah, you're right. No, wait. There's something in there. (FX: FORCES BOULDER OUT OF THE WAY) Look!

JANNIK:

A light?! There's light!?

SCENE 7. INT. CAVE (SPACESHIP).

FX: HOLLY USING GADGET.

HOLLY:

The Doctor's right. This isn't the source of the particles.

SAI:

You mean, we've found an alien spacecraft by coincidence?

DOCTOR:

No, but you're missing something very obvious.

SAI:

What? That a hundred years ago, the miners dug up the remains of a spacecraft that had lain undisturbed for a million years?

FLIP:

Yeah, but look at it. It's like an eggshell.

HOLLY:

So?

FLIP:

So if you're breaking into an egg, the bits go on the inside. These bits are on the outside.

SAI:

Something broke out.

DOCTOR:

Yes. When they dug it up, there was something inside. Something that was very much alive!

SAI:

We should get back to the northern shaft, Jannik and Dylan should be there by now.

HOLLY:

But this is what we've -

SAI:

You can talk all the photos you like later. Come on!

SCENE 8. INT. TUNNEL.

FX: DYLAN SHIFTING ROCKS.

DYLAN:
(HEAVING) One more.

JANNIK:
We should go back.

DYLAN:
Not yet. I'm nearly through. It would be quicker if you helped.

JANNIK:
Alright, alright.

FX: TOGETHER THEY SHIFT ONE LAST ROCK.

WE HEAR QUIETLY AMBIENCE OF CRYSTAL CAVE (SEE NEXT SCENE).

DYLAN:
There! Now will you look at that.

JANNIK:
It's like a... a fairy grotto!

DYLAN:
Those crystals. It's like the Naica* cave, the size of Grand Central Station. One for the record books! (*PRONOUNCED NIGH-KA, RHYMES WITH 'BIKER')

FX: THE OTHERS ARRIVE, SQUEEZING UNDER LOW CEILING.

SAI:
What the hell's going on, why didn't you –

JANNIK:
Dylan's found us a cave.

SAI:
(SQUEEZES PAST HIM) Selenite beams. It's impressive, I'll give you that.

FX: DOCTOR TURNS UP, GIZMO ON THE GO.

DOCTOR:
And that's not all.

FLIP:
It's where those particles are coming from.

HOLLY:

What about the temperature?

DYLAN:

(CHECKS) Forty degrees. We'll be alright so long as we don't stay in there too long.

SAI:

Then let's take a closer look, shall we?

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 9. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: LARGE CAVE. B/G NOISE — ACOUSTICS HAVE STRANGE, SHIMMERY ECHO, PLUS EVER-PRESENT PIXIE TINKLE. ALL MOVEMENTS SCRAPING AND SLIPPING OVER SMOOTH CRYSTALS, DISLODGING SMALL PEBBLES.

SAI:

Watch your step, everyone. These crystals are like ice.

HOLLY:

If only they were as cold as ice.

FLIP:

Doctor, the crystals are glowing.

DOCTOR:

Beautiful, isn't it? Some quality of phosphorescence?

SAI:

Or gamma radiation? Good point, Holly, can you —

FX: HOLLY CHECKS HER GADGET.

HOLLY:

Already ahead of you. Radiation levels are above average, but within safety margins.

DYLAN: (IN DISTANCE)

(CALLS OUT) Hey, I think we've found your source. Over here!

FX: THEY SCRABBLE OVER.

JANNIK:

What is it?

SAI:

Your guess is as good as mine.

HOLLY:

Some kind of creature... Trapped in the crystal, like a fly in amber.

JANNIK:

Some fly! More like an octopus.

SAI:

Or a robot. It's made of the same metal as the spaceship.

DYLAN:

Spaceship?

DOCTOR:

This is its pilot. A cyborg. Half-organic, half-machine.

FLIP:

Have you seen anything like it before?

DOCTOR:

No. Not that I recall, and it would certainly stick in the mind. Seven legs, telescopic ommatophores and razor teeth.

FLIP:

Don't touch it -

FX: DOCTOR TOUCHES CRYSTAL. SQUEAKS LIKE WIPING WET WINDOW.

DOCTOR:

It's alright. The crystal is quite solid. If it is crystal.

SAI:

What do you mean, 'if'?

FX: DOCTOR USES GIZMO TO PERFORM SCAN. BLEEPS.

DOCTOR:

No. It's ice.

HOLLY:

Ice? In this heat?

DOCTOR:

Vortex ice. Crystalline stasis.

FLIP:

Doctor, nobody knows what you're talking about.

DOCTOR:

Frozen chunks of time.

JANNIK:

(INCREDULOUS LAUGH) Time?

DOCTOR:

Time. Solid time. Projections of four-dimensional space. Within the ice, the passage of time is brought to a standstill.

DYLAN:

Like cryogenics?

DOCTOR:

Broadly speaking, yes, but more accurately speaking, no.

FLIP:

And this thing is giving off the particles?

DOCTOR:

No, no... But it's somewhere in here.

SAI:

Okay, Dylan, with me. Holly, Jannik, you go with them.

JANNIK:

I'd like to examine the specimen, if I may. It is alien life.

SAI:

Alright. But everyone. Stay within sight and the moment I say we leave, we leave. The clock is ticking.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 10. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: DYLAN AND SAI SCRABBLING OVER ROCK.

SAI:

Well, Jannik?

DYLAN:

A dead end. Another rockfall. I don't think there's any way through.

SAI:

But there was a way through before? A second cave?

DYLAN:

There might be, but we'd have to cut through the crystals –

SAI:

If that's even possible.

DYLAN:

You don't actually believe the Doctor? Frozen time?

SAI:

In the last hour, I've met two people wandering around a tunnel that's taken us two days to reach, I've seen a cave of giant crystals, the remains of an alien spaceship and its pilot. Right now, I'll believe anything.

DYLAN:

Well, believe me when I say that if we stay here much longer we run a serious risk of heatstroke.

SAI:

Point taken. Let's find the others.

SCENE 11. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: DOCTOR, FLIP, HOLLY CLAMBERING. DOCTOR'S GIZMO HOMING IN.

DOCTOR:

This way. Getting very close. Five metres. Four metres. Three –

FX: GIZMO WHOOPS, DOCTOR SWITCHES IT OFF.

DOCTOR:

Oh my.

FLIP:

Well, you did say you thought it might be a Time Lord.

DOCTOR:

Yes, but not that one. Not him!

HOLLY:

What are you talking about – (REACTS) What on Earth. But... but that's you!

DOCTOR:

Yes.

HOLLY:

You, in the crystal.

DOCTOR:

In, as you so accurately observe, the crystal.

HOLLY:

What is this, some sort of joke?

DOCTOR:

No joke. And it's not just me. Look.

FLIP:

Oh no. That's me!

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry.

FLIP:

But, that's me, frozen in the... thing. Me as I am now. She's even wearing the same clothes!

DOCTOR:

Yes. (FX: WIPES CRYSTAL WITH SLEEVE) The inimitable Philippa Jackson.

HOLLY:

What are they, copies?

DOCTOR:

No. They're us. Or rather, they will be.

HOLLY:

What?

DOCTOR:

They are our future selves. At some point in our personal timelines, Flip and I will end up entombed in vortex ice.

(NOTE: THE DOCTOR IS WRONG HERE)

FLIP:

How can you be so sure?

DOCTOR:

Well, do you remember being trapped in this ice?

FLIP:

(CAUTIOUSLY) No, but...

DOCTOR:

Then it must be something that hasn't happened yet, mustn't it?

FLIP:

Yeah, but how can you be sure it will happen?

DOCTOR:

Because we have found ourselves in the ice. Therefore it has happened, therefore it will happen, therefore it must happen.

(NOTE: FLIP HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER THEY CAN CHANGE ESTABLISHED EVENTS, SHE'S NOT JUST ASKING QUESTIONS FOR THE SAKE OF IT.)

FLIP:

'Must'? Don't we get any choice in the matter?

DOCTOR:

This is our destiny. It has now been written. If we try to avoid our fate, the resulting paradox would be calamitous.

FLIP:

Yeah, but actually, though, would anyone care?

DOCTOR:

I'd care, and so would half this galaxy when the other half suddenly went missing.

FLIP:

Alright then. Say these are our 'future selves'. Are they dead?

DOCTOR:

No. No, I don't think so. Merely frozen in an instant.

FLIP:

Then we have to get them out. Because I don't know about you, but I don't much fancy being stuck in a block of ice for all eternity!

FX: THE OTHERS ARRIVE.

SAI:

Alright, time to leave. One hour cool down, then you can come back and – what? What is it?

HOLLY:

We found our source.

SAI:

(SEES DOCTOR AND FLIP IN ICE) I see. Well, that makes about as much sense as anything else around here. Okay, you two, you've got some explaining to do.

FADE OUT.

SCENE 12. INT. CAVE (SPACESHIP).

FX: THEY'VE SET UP SOME ELECTRIC FANS TO COOL THEM DOWN.

EVERYONE IS DRINKING WATER/MOPPING BROWS DURING SCENE.

HOLLY:

You're time travellers?

DOCTOR:

Yes. Our vehicle is not far from where you found us.

FLIP:

We'd only just arrived, you see.

SAI:

So where are you from, originally?

FLIP:

Well, originally, Thamesmead, East London. It's near Woolwich.

DOCTOR:

And I'm from Gallifrey, constellation of Kasterborous. It's just to the left of Karn, you can't miss it.

DYLAN:

You're an alien from another planet?

DOCTOR:

Very much so.

FLIP:

So the exotic particles we've been looking for, they're coming from you? I mean, future you?

DOCTOR:

Yes. It's a form of Time Lord distress call.

FLIP:

Which we picked up and answered. Does that even make sense?

DOCTOR:

It does raise some fascinating ontological issues, regarding the nature of cause and effect –

FX: SUDDEN CLATTER, FAN KNOCKED OVER, MAKES SINISTER NOISE.

SAI:

What the –

FX: FAN IS RIGHTED, BACK TO NORMAL.

JANNIK:

Sorry, that was me, was just getting water and tripped over one of the fans.

SAI:

Try not to get yourself killed if you can help it. Alright, Doctor, what do you know about the other thing, the cyborg?

DOCTOR:

I'm afraid I can't help you. I've never seen it before. This is all in my future, you see. Evidently, my friend and I will come to this mine a hundred years ago, and end up entombed, but beyond that, I'm afraid your guess is as good as mine.

SAI:

Can we get them out of the ice, your future selves?

DOCTOR:

I've been wondering about that. If we caused the temporal field to collapse, it should be possible.

JANNIK:

And can you do that, that thing you just said?

DOCTOR:

With the Professor's permission...?

SAI:

Just do it. Okay, break over, we can - wait. Where's Holly?

JANNIK:

She was here.

DYLAN:

And the girl, Flip? Where is she?

SCENE 13. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: FLIP AND HOLLY CLAMBERING OVER ICE.

HOLLY:

Flip. What are you doing?

FLIP:

I just wanted to take another look.

HOLLY:

At yourself?

FX: THEY STOP, HAVING REACHED THE FROZEN DOCTOR AND FLIP.

FLIP:

You make it sound all egotistical. Though, look at my hair, it's all fluffy at the back. Do I really look like that?

HOLLY:

Flip, can I ask you something?

FLIP:

What?

HOLLY:

Earlier. When I mentioned my daughter. You acted like you knew something.

FLIP:

(COVERING UP, BUT FEELING GUILTY) No, I didn't, I don't.

HOLLY:

But you're a time traveller -

FLIP:

That doesn't mean I know what's going to happen.

HOLLY:

No?

FLIP:

No. I don't know any more than you do, I don't know how I end up trapped in the ice - woah (SHIVERS)

HOLLY:

What is it?

FLIP:

A drop of cold water, went right down my back.

HOLLY:

Flip, what do you know about vortex ice?

FLIP:

Not much, why?

HOLLY:

Because it seems to be melting.

FLIP:

You're right. The crystal with me in it - (FX: SHE TOUCHES IT, ICE CRACKING SOUND) It's cracking.

HOLLY:

Wait here.

FLIP:

What, why?

HOLLY:

I'm just going to get the others.

FLIP:

No, please -

HOLLY:

Don't worry, I'll only be a second.

FX: HOLLY CLAMBERS AWAY.

FLIP:

(QUIETLY, TO HERSELF) I'm sorry. I had to do it.

SCENE 14. INT. TUNNEL.

FX: DOCTOR AND CO CLAMBERING OVER ROCKS.

SAI:

They must've gone back into the crystal cave.

DOCTOR:

If I've told Flip not to wander off once, I've told her a thousand times —

HOLLY: (FROM INSIDE CAVE)
(SCREAMS)

SAI:

What the hell!

HOLLY:

(SECOND SHORTER SCREAM SUDDENLY CUT OFF)

JANNIK:

That was Holly.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 15. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: THEY ENTER, SCRABBLING OVER GIANT CRYSTALS AS BEFORE.

JANNIK:

(CALLS OUT) Holly! Holly!

FX: HIS VOICE ECHOES BACK.

DYLAN:

Shut up! Do you want the roof to fall in on us?

SAI:

She must be here somewhere – (SLIPS) Careful, these crystals are slippery.

JANNIK:

Not just slippery. They're wet.

DOCTOR:

Oh no.

SAI:

What, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Our presence here must have collapsed the temporal field. The vortex crystals are melting.

SAI:

Melting?

DOCTOR:

Meaning that the frozen time will soon be thawed.

DYLAN: (A LITTLE WAY OFF)

Over here! Careful.

FX: THEY CLAMBER OVER TO HIM.

SAI:

What is it – oh no.

JANNIK:

That's not Holly.

DOCTOR:

Oh, I'm afraid it is. Or what's left of her.

JANNIK:

But... that's just a skeleton.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Something has absorbed all the living tissue.

JANNIK:

Something?

DYLAN:

(FROM A LITTLE WAY OFF) Professor. Look.

SAI:

The cyborg. It's gone.

DYLAN:

The crystal must've weakened, it broke free.

DOCTOR:

And now it's somewhere in here with us.

SAI:

We woke it up.

DOCTOR:

Yes. And it woke up hungry.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 16. INT. CRYSTAL TUNNEL.

FX: MELTING ICE — CRACKING, CREAKING, SQUEAKING.

DOCTOR: (DISTANT)

(CALLING, NOT SHOUTING) Flip! Flip! Where are you?

FX: AND THEN AN UNEARTHLY HOWL OF AN ALIEN CREATURE. A PRIMAL ROAR, BUT WITH ELECTRONIC SHRIEKS, WHETHER IN ANGER OR PAIN. IT ECHOES AROUND THE CAVE.

FLIP:

(QUIETLY) Come on, Flip. You have to get through this.

SCENE 17. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: ANOTHER ROAR OF THE CREATURE.

JANNIK:

It doesn't sound very happy.

FX: THE CREATURE SLITHERS CLOSER, A SNAKE-LIKE HISS.

DYLAN:

There it is.

DOCTOR:

And it's between us and Flip.

SAI:

If she's even still alive.

FX: ANOTHER ROAR.

DOCTOR:

Keep back, Sai, Dylan, Jannik. (AMAZED) I think... I think can I understand what it's saying.

SAI:

It's talking?

DOCTOR:

Yes, and -

FX: ANOTHER ROAR.

DOCTOR:

Oh dear. It thinks I'm the one who trapped it here. And now it wants me dead.

SCENE 18. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: ICE CRACKS AND MELTS.

(NOTE: THE FROZEN FLIP WILL BE REFERRED TO AS 'PAST FLIP' FROM NOW. AS FAR AS 'PAST FLIP' IS CONCERNED SHE IS EXPERIENCING EVENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME, SO HAS NO IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON OR WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN — THE OTHER FLIP'S BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS ONCE BEFORE.)

PAST FLIP:

(WAKES AND FALLS FORWARD WITH A GASP. DISORIENTATED) Where am I? My head!

FLIP:

Careful, just take it easy.

PAST FLIP:

Everything's all blurry... and I can't move, my arms, full of pins and needles.

FLIP:

Don't worry, you'll feel better in a few minutes.

PAST FLIP:

What? (REALIZES WHO SHE'S TALKING TO) You! You're me!

FLIP:

Yes, I am. And you're me, or you will be.

PAST FLIP:

What? Will be? What does that mean?

FLIP:

Well, it's a bit complicated, but basically, Flip — I'm your future self!

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

SCENE 19. INT. CAVE

FX: NO REPRISE. AS THOUGH WE HAVE COME IN HALF-WAY THROUGH AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT STORY! DOCTOR & FLIP RUN DOWN A TUNNEL.

FLIP:

Doctor, that squid thing – it killed them. All the miners.

DOCTOR:

And it will kill us too if we don't find some way to defeat it!

FX: THEY HALT, DOCTOR STARTS UNWINDING FUSE ON DETONATOR.

FLIP:

So what's the plan?

DOCTOR:

We can't let it get out. Imagine what would happen if it reached the surface... So we have to blow up the mine.

FLIP:

What?

DOCTOR:

We have to blow up -

FLIP:

I heard what you said, it's just – with us in it!?!

DOCTOR:

There's no-one else left alive. The TARDIS is down that tunnel. We leave the cyborg buried, just as it was before those poor miners disturbed it. One, two, three – (FX: PRESSES PLUNGER)

FX: DISTANT EXPLOSION, FOLLOWED A SERIES OF ROCK FALLS.

FLIP:

Doctor, the roof's caving in!

DOCTOR:

Yes. The mine is sealed.

FX: HOWL OF THE ALIEN CREATURE.

FLIP:

Oh no.

DOCTOR:

Ah. It seems... the cyborg is still alive...

FLIP:

And between us and the TARDIS!

FX: CREATURE APPROACHES, SLITHERING, SHRIEKING.

DOCTOR:

(TO THE CREATURE) You might as well give up. There's no way out. So kill us if you like, but it won't do you any good!

FLIP:

Doctor, that might not be most brilliant bluff in the world.

FX: CREATURE STARTS SECRETING SLUSH. A GLUTINOUS, SLURPING SOUND. SLOPPING, SLOSHING MUD.

FLIP:

Ugh. That's so gross. What's it doing?

DOCTOR:

It's secreting some sort of... (REALIZES) Oh no. Vortex ice!

FLIP:

What?

DOCTOR:

It must be some sort of defence mechanism.

FLIP:

It's filled up the tunnel leading to the TARDIS!

DOCTOR:

Yes. It's deliberately cut off our only means of escape.

FLIP:

So now what do we do, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

(AGITATED) I'm thinking! Whatever you do, don't touch the ice.

FLIP:

Why, what'll happen?

DOCTOR:

It will crystallize around you, freeze you in time. Look!

FX: ICE BEGINS TO CRACK, CREAK, FORMING CRYSTALS.

FLIP:

Oh no. It's flooding the whole cave.

DOCTOR:

Climb up here, take my hand, that's it – (HAULS FLIP UP, THEN SEES SOMETHING) Yes, it seems I was right.

FX: CREATURE HOWLS, AS CRYSTAL CREAKS AND FORMS AROUND IT. WE BEGIN TO HEAR THE TINKLY AMBIENCE OF THE CRYSTAL CAVE.

FLIP:

What?

DOCTOR:

The creature is freezing itself. A form of self-induced temporal stasis.

FLIP:

I don't even know what that means, and I'm not – (SLIPS) Woah!

FX: FLIP SLIPS, SMALL SPLASH.

FLIP:

(SUDDEN CRAMP-LIKE PAIN) Doctor.

DOCTOR:

What?

FLIP:

The ice. It's got my foot.

DOCTOR:

Can you pull it free?

FLIP:

(TRYING, STUCK) You think I haven't tried?

DOCTOR:

(REALISATION) Yes. Of course! That's our only chance.

FX: DOCTOR JUMPS INTO THE MUD.

DOCTOR:

(SHIVERS, LIKE IN COLD WATER) Ha! Two can play at that game.

FX: CRACKLE OF CRYSTAL FORMING AROUND FLIP – AND US!

FLIP:

Doctor, what are you doing? (BEAT) Oh no – my leg's going all crystal-y.

DOCTOR:

Don't worry. You'll be fine. I promise. I have a plan.

FLIP:

Could you explain it really quickly? It's up to my waist!

DOCTOR:

(ALSO BEING ENCASED IN ICE) You have to trust me. (FX: HIS VOICE IS MUFFLED AS ICE COVERS FLIP) It's just... a matter... of time -

FLIP:

(CAN'T BREATHE, FREEZING COLD) Doctor, I can't - I - (TAKES ONE LAST SUFFOCATED GASP)

FX: ICE FORMS AROUND HER, AND US. THEN WE HEAR ECHOEY, OVERLAPPING, DISTORTED REPRISSES OF LINES FROM SCENE 11 - AS THOUGH FLIP IS HEARING THEM AS SHE WAKES FROM A DREAM.

FLIP:

...Well, you did say you thought it might be a Time Lord...

DOCTOR:

...The inimitable Philippa Jackson...

HOLLY:

What are they, copies?

DOCTOR:

This is our destiny. It has now been written.

SAI:

Well, that makes about as much sense as anything else around here.

FX: THEN THE ICE BEGINS TO CRACK, CONTINUOUS INTO:

SCENE 20. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: ICE CRACKS AND MELTS. BEGIN WITH REPRISE OF SCENE 18.

PAST FLIP:

Where am I? My head!

FLIP:

Careful, just take it easy.

PAST FLIP:

Everything's all blurry... and I can't move, my arms, full of pins and needles.

FLIP:

Don't worry, you'll feel better in a few minutes.

PAST FLIP:

What? (REALIZES WHO SHE'S TALKING TO) You! You're me!

FLIP:

Yes, I am. And you're me, or you will be.

PAST FLIP:

What? Will be? What does that mean?

FLIP:

Well, it's a bit complicated, but basically, Flip – I'm your future self.

SCENE CONTINUES:

PAST FLIP:

My future? What happened to me?

FLIP:

You were frozen in time, fighting an alien cyborg thing. Don't worry, it'll all come back, it's just short-term memory loss.

PAST FLIP:

How do you know?

FLIP:

Because I'm you. For me this is all the second time around. (FX: MONSTER ROARS) And if I remember things right, we just have to wait.

SCENE 21. INT. CRYSTAL CAVE.

FX: CREATURE ROARS, GROWING CLOSELY.

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry, I don't remember trapping you here.

FX: CREATURE ROARS AGAIN.

DOCTOR:

You see, it's in my future, I haven't actually done it yet. So if you kill me now, how can I – oh, I see your point.

SAI:

I can't believe he's trying to reason with it.

JANNIK:

I say we leave him to it.

DYLAN:

Then what's stopping you, Jannik?

DOCTOR:

(TO CREATURE) Hey! If it's Artron energy you're after, then...
(FX: HE ADJUST GIZMO) Try this! (HE HURLS IT)

FX: WE HEAR GIZMO BLEEPING AS IT RISES HIGH INTO THE AIR, THEN IT IS SNIFFED AT BY THE CREATURE.

DYLAN:

What good is throwing your gadget at it going to do?

DOCTOR:

Give it a moment –

FX: FIZZLE OF ELECTRICITY, CREATURE HOWLS IN PAIN, THEN SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, TENTACLES THRASHING ABOUT.

JANNIK:

You've killed it!

DOCTOR:

I'm afraid not, I've barely stunned it. And it's going to be even more annoyed with me when it recovers.

SAI:

Then let's get out of here.

DYLAN:

Hold on – wait – the Doctor's friend!

FX: THE TWO FLIPS ARE RUNNING, SLIDING ACROSS CRYSTALS.

DOCTOR:

Flip! Over here!

PAST FLIP: (DISTANT)

Doctor!?!

FLIP: (DISTANT)

Doctor!

JANNIK:

There are two of them!

SAI:

(REALISATION) The other one from the ice.

DYLAN:

(CALLS OUT) Quick! Before the cyborg wakes up!

FX: FLIPS RUN UP TO US.

PAST FLIP:

(BREATHLESS) Doctor! Would you mind telling me what's going on? Who are these people, and why are there two of me?

DOCTOR:

You don't remember?

FX: CREATURE BEGINS TO REVIVE.

DYLAN:

I think that thing's waking up! Quick!

PAST FLIP:

(YANKED ARM) Hey, no need to yank my arm off -

FX: CREATURE REARS UP, SUDDENLY AWAKE AND VERY ANGRY.

DOCTOR:

Dylan! Watch out!

DYLAN:

Wha - (SCREAMS)

FX: HIS CRY IS CUT OFF AS THE CREATURE KILLS HIM BY DRAINING ENERGY, A CRACKLING, WHOOSHING ELECTRONIC EFFECT.

SAI:

Dylan!

JANNIK:

There's nothing we can do.

PAST FLIP:

It made him all skeletal in a flash, how could it do that?

DOCTOR:

I'll explain later. Let's just get out of here while we can!

FX: THEY RUN AS THE CREATURE CONTINUES TO DRAIN ENERGY.

SCENE 22. INT. LARGE CAVE.

FX: EVERYONE RUNS IN – INCLUDING TWO FLIPS!

SAI:

(AFTER RUNNING) Holly, Dylan... I brought them here.

DOCTOR:

It's too late for regrets. We have concentrate on staying alive.

JANNIK:

That's easy for you to say.

SAI:

Jannik, we don't have time. I need you to get everything ready for an ascent.

JANNIK:

Right. (HEADS OFF)

FLIP:

Doctor, the cyborg, it isn't following us.

DOCTOR:

No. It must need to prioritise feeding over hunting.

SAI:

So how long have we got?

DOCTOR:

However long it takes for it to absorb all the molecular energy from its, ah, breakfast. Not long.

PAST FLIP:

Now would someone please mind telling me what's going on? One minute I'm stuck in ice, the next, this!

SAI:

Doctor, if this girl's from the future, why don't you just ask her how we get out of this?

DOCTOR:

I can't. It would violate the rule of cause and effect.

SAI:

I have a right to know if Jannik and I get out of this alive.

DOCTOR:

You will... If we get back to the TARDIS.

SAI:

The TARDIS?

DOCTOR:

My time machine. Once we're there, I can deal with the cyborg.

SAI:

Okay, that sounds like something resembling a plan. Jannik, how are you doing with the ropes? Jannik? Jannik?

FLIP:

He's gone.

SAI:

What?

FLIP:

Up the rope. He's not hanging about.

SAI:

(SHOUTS OUT) Jannik!! (NORMAL) He won't get far. Okay, two ropes. How shall we do this? Doctor, you and... one of the Flips next.

DOCTOR:

No, you should go.

SAI:

Doctor. I'm in charge of this expedition, what's left of it.

DOCTOR:

There's no time to argue, Professor. You're going next. Flip.

FLIP:

Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Which one are you? Oh, it doesn't matter. Quick, put on the belt and buckle yourself to the ascender.

FX: SHE DOES SO DURING THE FOLLOWING.

FLIP:

Got it. How does it work?

DOCTOR:

It's quite simple, you move this up the rope, lock, pull yourself up, move this up, lock, unlock this, and repeat.

FLIP:

Sounds complicated. Sorry, I've never done this before.

SAI:

I'll be right beside you, I'll talk you through it.

FLIP:

Okay.

FX: FLIP FINISHES CLICKING BELT.

DOCTOR:

Then up you go.

FX: FLIP BEGINS HAULING HERSELF UP ROPE.

FLIP:

(HEAVE) And lock, which one, ah got it. (FX: LOCK.) And unlock.

DOCTOR:

(TO SAI) Okay, Professor. Your turn.

SAI:

Very well, Doctor. See you up there. (HEAVES)

FX: SAI ASCENDS — LOCK, HEAVE, LOCK, HEAVE.

PAST FLIP:

Now we just have to hope that thing is a slow eater.

SCENE 23. INT. LARGE CAVE.

FX: FLIP AND SAI ARE WORKING THEIR WAY UP USING ASCENDERS, A PROCESS OF CLICKING AND HAULING UP A ROPE.

FLIP:

Blimey, this is knackerin'. (HEAVE!) How far are we?

SAI:

(HEAVE!) Nearly half-way.

FLIP:

My arms (HEAVE!) are falling off.

SAI:

Okay. Breather for one minute. (FX: THEY STOP ASCENDING) Flip. Which one are you?

FLIP:

What?

SAI:

The one who came down with us, or the one from the ice?

FLIP:

Oh. Um. The one from the ice. (NOTE: FLIP IS LYING)

SAI:

(DISAPPOINTED) Oh.

FLIP:

Why?

SAI:

Because I want to ask your future self why she just let two of my friends die.

FLIP:

(AS SHE IS THE FUTURE ONE, THIS HITS HER) I'm not sure she did.

SAI:

She's already been through all this, hasn't she? She knows what's going to happen. So she could have saved them.

FLIP:

I don't think it works like that.

SAI:

No?

FLIP:

No. I think maybe she had no choice, cos she has to make sure things happen how they did before. For her, I mean. Once something's been done, you can't undo it, no matter how much you want to.

SCENE 24. INT. LARGE CAVE

PAST FLIP:

Come on, hurry up! Can't we just go up after them?

DOCTOR:

Only two ascenders. The rest of our equipment's in the cave with the spaceship.

PAST FLIP:

Spaceship? What spaceship?

DOCTOR:

(REALISES SOMETHING IS UP) Flip, what's the last thing you remember?

PAST FLIP:

I don't know. I remember us getting out of the TARDIS. But nothing after that.

DOCTOR:

Of course! Short-term memory loss, from exposure to vortex ice!

PAST FLIP:

That's what she said, when I woke up.

DOCTOR:

Yes, well – sorry, who told you that?

PAST FLIP:

The other me, the future me.

DOCTOR:

No, Flip, you're confused. You were in the vortex ice, so you're the one from the future.

PAST FLIP:

Er, no, I'm not. She is. The one up there, dangling.

DOCTOR:

(REALISING) Then as far as she's concerned this is all the second time around – (NOTE: THIS IS THE POINT WHERE THE DOCTOR REALIZES THAT HE'S GOT THE PAST AND FUTURE FLIPS THE WRONG WAY AROUND)

FX: HE IS INTERRUPTED AS, ECHOING DOWN FROM ABOVE.

JANNIK:

(TERRIBLE SCREAM)

SCENE 25. INT. LARGE CAVE.

FX: UP WITH FLIP AND SAI. THEY PAUSE, HEARING THE SCREAM.

SAI:

That was Jannik.

JANNIK:

(SECOND SCREAM, CUT OFF BY:)

FX: ROAR OF CREATURE.

FLIP:

It's above us. That thing, it's above us!

FX: CREATURE ROARS, STARTS CHEWING.

SAI:

We'll have to do an emergency descent.

FLIP:

What?

SAI:

Use the ascender as a brake, it'll slow you down.

FLIP:

Okay. (FX: SHE DOES IT, ZIPPING DOWN THE ROPE) Woah!

FX: CREATURE ROARS.

SAI:

(TO HERSELF) And then there was one.

FX: SAI DESCENDS, ZIPPING DOWN THE ROPE. MONSTER ROARS.

SCENE 26. INT. LARGE CAVE.

PAST FLIP:

That cyborg thing's up there. But how -

DOCTOR:

There must be another way through. Watch out!

FX: THE OTHER FLIP ZIPS DOWN, LANDING HEAVILY.

FLIP:

(LANDS WITH A THUD) Woah.

DOCTOR:

Are you alright?

FLIP:

Yeah, I think so, but -

FX: SAI DESCENDS RAPIDLY, ZZZZIP! AND LANDS HEAVILY.

SAI:

(LANDING BADLY) Ow!

DOCTOR:

Sai -

SAI:

(TESTING INJURY) My leg. Not broken. I'll live.

FX: THE OTHER ROPE FALLS. MONSTER ROARS, HEADING OFF.

PAST FLIP:

It's going. Why not kill us?

DOCTOR:

Because there's more to eat on the surface.

SAI:

And we're - (OUCH!) trapped.

DOCTOR:

No. If it got up there, so can we. One of these tunnels must lead to an upper level.

PAST FLIP:

But which one?

DOCTOR:

Ah. Well. Your guess is as good as mine. (BEAT) No, wait.

SAI:

What?

DOCTOR:

The Flip from the future. She would know which tunnel to take.

FLIP:

Well don't look at me, I'm not the future one.

DOCTOR:

It's alright, you can stop pretending. I know.

SAI:

Know what?

DOCTOR:

I was wrong. The Flip frozen in the ice wasn't from the future. This is the first time she's been through this.

PAST FLIP:

Exactly! And it's the sort of thing I'd remember!

DOCTOR:

Whereas the Flip I arrived with knows exactly what's going to happen.

FLIP:

(STEELES HERSELF TO ADMIT THE TRUTH) Yes, I do. But I can't tell you, I'm sorry.

SAI:

Well, that's useful!

DOCTOR:

Maybe not, but you have to ensure that events occur as they did the first time around. So, which tunnel did we take then?

FLIP:

(RELUCTANTLY) That one. We went that way.

DOCTOR:

Then that's the way we shall go. Past Flip, I hope you're paying attention, because I'll be asking questions later.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 27. INT. TUNNEL.

FX: OUR HEROES CLAMBERING THROUGH TUNNEL.

SAI:
(WINCE OF PAIN)

FLIP:
You alright?

SAI:
Fine, just – (ANOTHER WINCE)

DOCTOR:
Wait here. I'll check ahead. Flip?

FLIP & PAST FLIP:
Yeah?

DOCTOR:
You, come with me. The other one, stay with the Professor.

FLIP/PAST FLIP:
Right/Okay.

FX: PAST FLIP JOINS DOCTOR.

DOCTOR:
We'll be back in a few minutes. Careful, it's very slippery.

PAST FLIP:
(SLIPS ON LOOSE STONE) Woah!

DOCTOR:
(AS THEY HEAD OFF) I did tell you.

PAST FLIP:
(AS THEY HEAD OFF) Yeah, alright, I'll remember for next time.

FX: DOCTOR AND PAST FLIP GO.

SAI:
(WAITS UNTIL THEY HAVE GONE) So you're the future one. Everything that's happened, you've known was going to happen, and let it happen.

FLIP:
Look, what could I have done? Big giant robot octopus!

SAI:
You could've done something.

FLIP:

Don't you think I wish that? Holly was telling me about her daughter. Next week, it's her birthday.

SAI:

What about me?

FLIP:

What?

SAI:

Come on, tell me. Do I get out of this alive?

FLIP:

I can't...

SAI:

Can't or won't?

FLIP:

Even if I told you, you wouldn't believe me.

SAI:

Try me.

FLIP:

Alright. Yes. You survive, you get out of this okay.

SAI:

You're lying.

FLIP:

I said you wouldn't believe me.

FX: ROCKS DISTURBED, A LITTLE WAY OFF.

SAI:

What was that?

FLIP:

What?

SAI:

Something behind us, down the tunnel.

FLIP:

Probably just a small rock-fall.

SAI:

Or the cyborg.

FX: OTHER DOCTOR AND FLIP RETURN.

FLIP:

They're coming back. Doctor!

DOCTOR:

(RETURNING) Alright, there's a way up to the next level ahead.

SAI:

Then let's get a move on, shall we? Cos if that thing is coming after us, I don't fancy hanging around.

MUSIC LINK.

SCENE 28. INT. TUNNEL.

FX: THEY APPROACH US.

DOCTOR:
Which way now?

FLIP:
Um... the TARDIS is this way, I think. No, this way.

DOCTOR:
Are you sure?

FLIP:
(SARCASTIC) Yeah, cos all these tunnels are really memorable and different-looking!

DOCTOR:
Right. Other Flip?

PAST FLIP: (A LITTLE WAY OFF, WITH SAI)
Yeah?

DOCTOR:
Look around you, you'll need to remember this.

PAST FLIP:
Why? What?

DOCTOR:
Look around you, try to find something memorable!

PAST FLIP:
(SARCASTIC) What like? That spade?

FLIP:
(REMEMBERING) Yes, I remember this bit now, I've seen that spade before, yes, it's this way, definite.

DOCTOR:
Professor?

FX: THEY WALK ON.

SAI:
(WALKING UNAIDED) I'm right behind you, it's easier if I keep moving. (WINCES)

FLIP:
Do you want some help -

SAI:

No, I'm fine. You've done enough.

FLIP:

I'm sorry.

SAI:

I don't see what good apologising will do.

FLIP:

I didn't want any of this, this wasn't my idea.

SAI:

Then what are you saying sorry for?

FLIP:

Because earlier, you were right. I was lying to you.

FX: THEY HALT.

DOCTOR:

Oh, marvellous.

PAST FLIP:

A dead end? I thought you said this was the way out?

FLIP:

I didn't say that.

DOCTOR:

You must have misremembered. Please try to concentrate.

FLIP:

I didn't "misremember" Doctor.

SAI:

No. She's brought us here. So that something can happen. To me. Well, I'm not gonna stand around and get killed. That is not gonna happen... This time, it's gonna be different.

FX: SAI STARTS WALKING AWAY.

FLIP:

(QUIETLY TO HERSELF) I'm afraid it's not.

SAI:

Whatever it is, it can happen to you, I'm not -

FX: SHE IS CUT OFF BY THE ROAR OF THE MONSTER AS IT SUDDENLY ARRIVES, SLITHERING FROM THE ROOF.

SAI:

(SHORT DEATH SHRIEK)

FX: IT DRAINS THE LIFE FROM HER, SHE FALLS SILENT. CREATURE BIDES ITS TIME, MAKES OCCASIONAL NOISES.

FLIP:

(REGRETFUL) I knew it would happen, and I couldn't stop it.

PAST FLIP:

What? This is all your fault, you – (big)

FLIP:

Don't you get all shirty with me! I had to bring us here.

PAST FLIP:

Oh you had to, did you? And you had to let Professor Sai die?

FLIP:

Yes! Because that's how it happened before, don't you see?

DOCTOR:

Part of the sequence of events that resulted in us getting out of this alive. Change one thing, one tiny detail, and you jeopardise the whole future timeline!

PAST FLIP:

But we're trapped. There is literally no way out. I'm dead, you're dead, she's dead. We're all dead!

DOCTOR:

Yes, I must confess, the situation does look rather bleak.

FX: BEGINNING OF TARDIS LANDING SOUND.

FLIP:

Not quite.

FX: CREATURE REACTS TO IT, SNARLS, INTRIGUED, SNIFFING.

FX: THE TARDIS DOOR OPENS.

PAST DOCTOR: (EMERGING)

That's it. Take a big sniff. Lots of lovely Artron energy. Here, boy! Here!

FX: CREATURE SNARLS, UNSURE.

PAST DOCTOR:

That's it! Get it while it's hot! (BACKING AWAY) Woah!

FX: TARDIS DOOR SHUT. CREATURE SLITHERS TOWARDS IT, ATTEMPTS TO BITE THE TARDIS, THEN GROANS DROWSILY, CONTENTEDLY.

PAST FLIP:

What's it doing?

DOCTOR:

The Artron emissions from the TARDIS. It's like catnip.

PAST FLIP:

Catnip?

DOCTOR:

(ANNOYED TO HAVE BEEN GAZUMPED) This is exactly what I'd intended to do, when we got back to the TARDIS!

FLIP:

Yeah, but you already have done.

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry?

FLIP:

The Doctor in there, he's your past self. The one that was in the ice!

DOCTOR:

Then, if I've done all this before, why don't I remember it?

FX: TARDIS DOOR OPENS.

FLIP:

(QUIET) I'll explain later.

PAST DOCTOR:

Hello, um, everyone! Sorry to interrupt!

DOCTOR:

Not at all, Doctor. I must say, though, you cut it rather fine!

PAST DOCTOR:

I came as fast as I could. Once I was thawed out, it took a while to find your TARDIS -

DOCTOR:

(AFFRONTED) My TARDIS?

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes, hope you don't mind me borrowing it, only mine is... unavailable.

PAST FLIP:

Oh, I remember now, the tunnel, it was all vortex-iced!

FLIP:

I said it would come back to you.

DOCTOR:

Well, it hasn't come back to me. Sorry, but how did you even find my TARDIS?

FX: PAST DOCTOR USES DETECTOR GIZMO.

PAST DOCTOR:

With this. I found it in the cave where I was defrosted. Serves as a rather useful TARDIS sniffer-outer.

DOCTOR:

Ah, I'd rather like that back, if it's all the same to you.

PAST DOCTOR:

Here, catch. (THROWS IT) Now, if you'll excuse me, I'd better head off before this fellow wakes up. Which one of you is my Flip?

PAST FLIP:

I'm not 'your' Flip, I'm not anyone's.

PAST DOCTOR:

Alright, which one of you was frozen in the vortex ice?

PAST FLIP:

Me.

PAST DOCTOR:

Then you come with me.

PAST FLIP:

Fine, fine. (TO OTHER FLIP) Nice meeting you, future me. Look forward to doing this again. Not.

FLIP:

Nice meeting you too. Take care of yourself, or I won't be here to tell you this.

FX: PAST FLIP APPROACHES TARDIS, OPENS DOOR.

DOCTOR:

Excuse me. I think you have some explaining to do first!

PAST DOCTOR:

Don't you remember all this?

DOCTOR:

No, I don't.

PAST DOCTOR:

Oh. Well, ask your Flip, I'm sure she'll fill you in. You know what I'm like with explanations!

DOCTOR:

But that's my TARDIS, you can't just fly off in it!

PAST DOCTOR:

Oh, can't I?

FX: HE CLOSES DOOR.

DOCTOR:

Well, he has to be the most the rude, incorrigible –

FLIP:

He's you!

DOCTOR:

– handsome, intelligent and perceptive person I have ever met.

FX: TARDIS TAKES OFF, WITH CYBORG.

FLIP:

They're off.

DOCTOR:

Taking the cyborg with them. Well, I've always wondered what it felt like when I came to the rescue.

FX: TARDIS FINISHES TAKING OFF.

DOCTOR:

Now, you heard my former self. You have some explaining to do.

FLIP:

Alright, well, it all began when we landed in this mine, where the miners had just dug up an alien spaceship –

DOCTOR:

No, not that. What I want to know is, where have those two just gone?

FLASHBACK INTO:

SCENE 29. INT. CAVE.

FX: TARDIS LANDS. CYBORG GROANING IN SLEEP. DOOR OPENS.

PAST DOCTOR:

Ah, good, it's still out cold.

PAST FLIP:

It travelled with us?

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes. The TARDIS wasn't keen, but I insisted.

PAST FLIP:

So where are we? (REMEMBERING) Wait... This is the cave where we first landed!

PAST DOCTOR:

Look behind you.

PAST FLIP:

Another TARDIS?

PAST DOCTOR:

(FX: HE PATS THE SIDE) My TARDIS.

PAST FLIP:

The one we arrived in?

PAST DOCTOR:

So now we can return the other to its original owner. Hey... Presto!

FX: THE TARDIS STARTS TO VANISH, LEAVING THE CYBORG BEHIND.

PAST FLIP:

You did not just set up the TARDIS to vanish with you saying 'Hey Presto'.

PAST DOCTOR:

No, it was on a timer.

OUT OF FLASHBACK.

SCENE 30. INT. TUNNEL.

FLIP:

... So the Doctor sent the other TARDIS back.

DOCTOR:

Back to where?

FLIP:

Back to its original owner, you said.

FX: TARDIS BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE.

FLIP:

Wait, what's that -

DOCTOR:

My TARDIS!

FX: TARDIS FINISHES LANDING.

DOCTOR:

Of course. You remember my former self sending the TARDIS to my future self, here, now.

FLIP:

Right, yeah, if you say so.

DOCTOR:

But the cyborg that was clinging to the outside, what happened to it?

FLIP:

Oh, when the TARDIS took off, it left it behind..

FX: FLASHBACK INTO:

SCENE 31. INT. CAVE.

FX: CREATURE STILL STIRRING.

PAST FLIP:

So, what do we do, just leave it here?

PAST DOCTOR:

For it to cause more death and mayhem? No. Flip, you asked me where we were. But a more pertinent question might be when.

PAST FLIP:

When?

PAST DOCTOR:

Listen.

FX: IN THE B/G, SCENE 19 PLAYS OUT IN THE CAVE NEXT DOOR, STARTING WITH A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS.

PAST FLIP:

That's you, blowing up the mine!

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes. Bang on cue. And any second...

FX: HOWL OF THE ALIEN CREATURE. THEN WE HEAR SCENE 19 MUFFLED:

FLIP:

Oh no.

DOCTOR:

Ah. It seems... the creature is still alive...

FLIP:

And it's between us and the TARDIS!

FX: CREATURE APPROACHES, SHRIEKING. REST OF DIALOGUE FROM SCENE 19 PLAYS OUT IN B/G UNDER THE FOLLOWING:

PAST FLIP:

But that's us, that's —

PAST DOCTOR:

Our former selves, yes. About to become entombed in vortex ice.

PAST FLIP:

I don't get it, why have we come back here?

PAST DOCTOR:

Think about what happened next.

FX: CREATURE STARTS SECRETING SLUSH. A GLUTINOUS, SLURPING SOUND. SLOPPING, SLOSHING MUD.

PAST FLIP:

I remember. The cyborg filled the tunnel leading to the TARDIS with vortex ice.

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes.

PAST FLIP:

This tunnel, the one we're standing in right now!

FX: TIDAL WAVE OF SLOSHING, GURGLING MUD APPROACHES THEM.

OUT OF FLASHBACK.

SCENE 32. INT. TUNNEL.

FLIP:

And then suddenly this great big tidal wave gushed into the cave, and the cyborg was covered in it.

DOCTOR:

Trapping it in the vortex ice it had itself secreted! Hoist by its own petard!

FLIP:

Yeah, you said that before. So anyway, all this sloshy ice stuff was slooshing in -

FX: FLASHBACK INTO:

SCENE 33. INT. CAVE.

FX: ICE SLOSHING IN.

PAST DOCTOR:

Quickly, Flip, into the TARDIS!

FX: SHE TRIES THE DOOR.

PAST FLIP:

It's locked, I haven't got a key.

FX: MUD SLOSHING AROUND THEM.

PAST DOCTOR:

Hold on, it's in one of my pockets.

PAST FLIP:

This is no time for you to have one of your 'pockets' moments.

PAST DOCTOR:

(FIND KEY) Here.

FX: FLIP UNLOCKS TARDIS DOOR.

PAST DOCTOR:

Now, inside! (SUDDEN PAIN) Aaaargh.

PAST FLIP:

Doctor, what is it?

PAST DOCTOR:

Flip! Quick!

FX: THEY GET INSIDE. DOOR CLOSES. CONTINUOUS INTO:

SCENE 34. INT. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM. (CONTINUOUS)

FX: TARDIS HUM.

PAST DOCTOR:

(IN PAIN) – the doors!

PAST FLIP:

Got it.

FX: SHE CLOSES THE DOORS.

PAST FLIP:

What happened?

PAST DOCTOR:

Got... splashed by some vortex ice.

PAST FLIP:

What, so you're going to be all crystallised again?

PAST DOCTOR:

No, not this time. Unlike our friend outside...

FX: HE OPERATES SCANNER.

PAST FLIP:

Woah, the cyborg thing's all encased in ice.

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes. Hoist by its own petard.

FX: SCANNER CLOSED. DOCTOR PRESSES BUTTONS TO TAKE OFF.

PAST FLIP:

We're taking off?

PAST DOCTOR:

Yes. (WEAKENING) Vitally important to complete the circle. Listen, Flip. I... need you to do something for me.

PAST FLIP:

What?

PAST DOCTOR:

The vortex ice... I'm going to lose my short-term memory, I won't remember any of this. And you must not tell me.

PAST FLIP:

Why not?

PAST DOCTOR:

(IN PAIN, BUT FIGHTING IT) The TARDIS will land back in the mine. Everything has to happen as it did before.

PAST FLIP:

Before? What do you mean?

PAST DOCTOR:

Make sure you and the Doctor end up where I came to rescue you. But you cannot tell him... pretend not to know...

PAST FLIP:

Hang on, though, but why -

FX: DOCTOR SLIPS TO THE FLOOR.

PAST DOCTOR:

(WEAKENING) Promise me. Events must unfold as they did before! Change one thing, one tiny detail -

PAST FLIP:

Alright, I know! I promise, I promise.

PAST DOCTOR:

One more thing. You can't save anyone.

PAST FLIP:

What -

PAST DOCTOR:

Sai, Holly, Dylan and Jannik. You have to let them die.

PAST FLIP:

(HORRIFIED) I have to let them die? You can't ask me to do that. (ALMOST TEARFUL BUT FIERCELY INDIGNANT) No. It's not fair!

PAST DOCTOR:

I'm sorry, Flip. But -

FX: DOCTOR LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS.

PAST FLIP:

(TRYING TO WAKE HIM) Oh, don't you cop out on me like that! Doctor? Doctor? (SUDDENLY ALONE) Oh. What do I do now?

FX: OUT OF FLASHBACK.

SCENE 35. INT. TUNNEL.

FLIP:

So I was stuck in the TARDIS while you were in a sort of coma thing with your face all frosty. That went on for a couple of hours, so I went to my room for a nap. Then, when I got up, you were full of beans, ready to explore the cave we'd just landed in -

FX: FLASHBACK INTO REPRISÉ OF PART OF SCENE 2, MOVING OUT INTO CAVE:

DOCTOR:

(EMERGES, FX: SWITCHES ON TORCH) A cave. No, these walls have been excavated. A mine!

FLIP:

(EMERGES) We're underground?

OUT OF FLASHBACK.

FLIP:

And, well, you know the rest.

DOCTOR:

Yes. I daresay it will all come back to me in the fullness of time. *(FX: DOCTOR OPENS TARDIS)* Thank you, Flip.

FLIP:

For what?

DOCTOR:

For completing the circle.

FX: THEY ENTER TARDIS, CONTINUOUS TO:

SCENE 36. INT. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM.

FX: DOCTOR AND FLIP ENTER.

FLIP:

Doctor. They were good people. And I had to let them die.

DOCTOR:

You didn't have any choice.

FX: HE CLOSES DOOR.

FLIP:

That didn't make it any easier.

DOCTOR:

Yes. I know.

FLIP:

(ANGRY) No, you don't! You have no idea what it's like!

DOCTOR:

I have some. "Whatever Fate ordains, danger or hurt, Or death predestined, nothing can avert." It is the curse of the time traveller. To know there are lives you cannot save, injustices you cannot prevent. Once the die has been cast, the die has been cast, irrevocably and for evermore.

FLIP:

This is what it's like for you all the time?

DOCTOR:

I'd like to be able to say you get used to it... But even after all these centuries, I haven't. (BEAT) I can't make it up to you. I can't make it right. But I can say thank you.

FX: HE BEGINS PROGRAMMING THE CONTROLS.

FLIP:

Go on then, how?

DOCTOR:

By showing you the reason why I keep going. By showing you that life goes on, and that the universe is full of joy and wonder and sights beyond your wildest imaginings. I know... I'll take you to -

FX: DOCTOR IS CUT OFF JUST AS HE'S ABOUT TO SAY 'FESTIN'.

END OF EPISODE TWO

NOTE:

THE ORDER OF EVENTS FOR THE DOCTOR AND FLIP.

THEY ARRIVE IN THE MINE, MEETS SOME MINERS WHO HAVE UNCOVERED AN ALIEN. THE DOCTOR BLOWS UP THE MINE TO TRAP THE ALIEN. THE DOCTOR AND FLIP THEN GET ENCASED IN VORTEX ICE. **SCENE 19.**

FLIP (AKA **PAST FLIP**) IS THEN DEFROSTED AND MEETS HER FUTURE SELF — **SCENE 18** — AND JOINS HER AND THE 'FUTURE' DOCTOR FOR THE REST OF THE STORY. **SCENES 20 — 28.**

THE DOCTOR WHO WAS ENCASED IN THE ICE WAKES UP, BORROWS THE FUTURE DOCTOR'S TARDIS, AND TURNS UP IN **SCENE 28.**

HE THEN TRAVELS BACK IN TIME WITH 'HIS' FLIP TO DUMP THE ALIEN IN THE PAST SO IT GETS CAUGHT IN ICE. **SCENES 29, 31, 33, 34.**

THE DOCTOR LOSES HIS MEMORY IN **SCENE 34**, THEN THE TARDIS LANDS BACK IN THE MINE AND THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES WITH FLIP KNOWING WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN AND THE DOCTOR NOT KNOWING.

'PAST FLIP' IS NOW **FLIP**. SHE IS WORKING TO ENSURE EVENTS UNFOLD AS SHE REMEMBERS. **SCENES 2 — 18.**

FLIP MEETS HER PAST SELF IN **SCENE 18** AND FOR HER AND THE DOCTOR THE REST OF THE STORY IS **SCENES 20-28, 30, 32, 35 AND 36.**



CORTEX FIRE

by Ian Potter

THE DOCTOR: COLIN BAKER
Space-time traveller.

FLIP: LISA GREENWOOD
Space-time traveller's companion.

KHORALLA:
(F, 30s) Middle-class professional out of her comfort zone.

HALUS:
(M, 40s) Troubled construction worker.

DAKEEM: / AMBULANCE PILOT:
(M, 20s) Driven medic.

BAV: / CORTEX: / ENFORCER:
(F, 30s) Khoralla's partner, turned into a raging elemental force. / Computer network voice. / Robotic police.

DIRECTOR: KEN BENTLEY
SCRIPT EDITOR: ALAN BARNES
PRODUCER: DAVID RICHARDSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: NICHOLAS BRIGGS & JASON HAIGH-ELLERY

BIG FINISH PRODUCTIONS LTD © 2016

PART ONE

GRAMS: OPENING THEME

SCENE 1: EXT. SKIES OF FESTIN. DUSK. [NO DIALOGUE]

FX: WINDS. SLOW RUMBLE OF AIR-FREIGHTERS IN UPPER SKY. FASTER, LESS BASSY, VEHICLES MOVE BY NEARER US. TWO FAR-OFF SIRENS - ONE SIGNIFYING POLICE, THE OTHER AN AMBULANCE. NEARBY, A FASTER VEHICLE STILL WHIZZES ACROSS THE SOUNDSCAPE.

CROSS TO:

SCENE 2: INT. BAV'S STUDY. DUSK. [CONTINUOUS]

FX: LARGE ROOM IN HIGH BUILDING. AIR TRAFFIC MUFFLED BY GLASS. A MUSE (SMALL DEVICE LIKE A TABLET PC) CHIMES.

CORTEX:

(MUSE) Muse inactive. Saving libretto.

FX: MUSE POWERING DOWN.

KHORALLA:

(UPSTAIRS, THROUGH DOOR) Bav? How's it going down there? It's gone a bit quiet.

BAV:

(CALLS) Think I've made a breakthrough actually! It's-

FX: BAV GASPS IN PAIN, SHAKING HER DESK.

BAV:

(PAIN, SCARED) No!

KHORALLA:

(UPSTAIRS, THROUGH DOOR) Great work not coming along too well?

FX: PULSING ELECTRIC FIZZ. SMALL FLAMES LIKE MATCHES FLARING AS FIRE BURSTS FROM HER FINGERS.

BAV:

I'm burning...!

SCENE 3: EXT. PARK. DUSK.

FX: AIRCARS ABOVE. TREES RUSTLE IN BREEZE. ALIEN BIRDS FLAP AWAY AS THE DOCTOR AND FLIP WALK BRISKLY BY.

DOCTOR:

Come on, Flip! Look lively!

FLIP:

My legs aren't as long as yours!

DOCTOR:

But you have the advantage of youth! Now stop dawdling – it's almost dusk, we don't want to be late.

FLIP:

Then why didn't you park the TARDIS closer? ... Or earlier, so we didn't have to rush?

DOCTOR:

Park her? She's not an Austin Princess! The TARDIS is a ship of immense power and delicacy. She has to be coaxed into normal Space-Time by a pilot of the greatest skill. You can't just pull in by the arena on a single yellow.

FLIP:

A what Princess?

DOCTOR:

I'll tell you later. Now, hurry up – the show starts in three hours.

FLIP:

Three hours? What's the rush?

DOCTOR:

We'll want to eat first, won't we?

FLIP:

Can't we flag down one of these flying cars?

DOCTOR:

Do you know how to "flag down" a Festin aircar?

FLIP:

No, but I thought you might.

SCENE 4: INT. INSIDE AIRCAR. DUSK.

FX: HALUS CLIMBS IN AND SITS. SEAT BLEEPs. THE CAR SPEAKS FROM A DASHBOARD SPEAKER.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Lode key recognised. Welcome back, Worker Halus. Where may I take you?

HALUS:

Just up and home please.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Manual control will be required. This city sector is currently off-circuit.

HALUS:

I know. We've just been sweating blood to get it updated. It'll be back on the circuit at midnight.

FX: SEATBELT FASTENS. DOOR CLOSES. A PING AS THE CAR GOES TO MANUAL.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Safety harness in place. Door closing. Manual control.

FX: AIRCAR TAKES OFF.

SCENE 5: INT. BAV'S STUDY. DUSK.

FX: BAV'S FINGERS CONTINUING TO LIGHT UP – WHOMPF! WHOMPF!
WHOMPF!

BAV:

I'm burning! Burning!!!

KHORALLA:

(UPSTAIRS, THROUGH DOOR) We've got 'The Martyrdom' tonight, so don't worry if it's not flowing..

FX: BAV IS CONSUMED BY FIRE. PULSING (FLANGING?) FIZZ CONTINUES, LIKE BREATHING. BAV'S VOICE IS MODULATED – DEEPER, SIBILANT, A RASPY CHORUS.

BAV:

(TREATED) Pleassse, no!

FX: KHORALLA COMES DOWNSTAIRS APPROACHING DOOR.

KHORALLA:

(APPROACHING, THROUGH DOOR) Bav? Are you alright in there?

FX: DOOR OPENS.

KHORALLA:

(SHOCK) Sweet Founders!

BAV:

(TREATED) Burning! From my fingers! Khoralla!!! I'm becoming one of them..!

KHORALLA:

Try – try not to panic. I'll get help!

BAV:

(TREATED) Musst desstroy! Musst free the Urge!

FX: FLAMES ROAR FROM BAV. ARCS OF ELECTRICITY. KHORALLA SLAMS DOOR. FLAMES HIT IT WITH A WHUMPF!

SCENE 6: EXT. PARK. DUSK.

FX: THE DOCTOR AND FLIP WALK. A DISTANCE AWAY A WIDE RIVER ECHOES IN A GORGE. AIRCARS BUZZ BY.

FLIP:

How do those cars stay up, Doctor? They've no rockets or anything.

DOCTOR:

Well observed, Flip. As it happens – what keeps them up is the reason we're here!

FLIP:

I thought we were here for a show?

DOCTOR:

That's right- 'The Martyrdom of Baran-Selan', under the stars in the Grand Arena of Festin City! But the opera's not the main attraction.

FLIP:

An opera? Is it all singing? Because I'm not great with musicals, Doctor. I only really like them when a big chandelier or a helicopter comes down.

DOCTOR:

Oh, there'll be something rather more impressive than that tonight!

FLIP:

So what's it got to do with flying cars? Are they going to fly one in?

DOCTOR:

(SIGH) The cars are levitated electro-magnetically, Flip. This planet has an exceptionally strong magnetic field which the locals have rather cleverly exploited. The skies of Festin are a constantly shifting lattice of projected energy roadways!

FLIP:

If you say so.

DOCTOR:

But that strong magnetic field is what causes glorious light shows, when charged particles enter the upper atmosphere...

FLIP:

Like the Northern Lights?

DOCTOR:

A lot like the Northern Lights, yes. However unlike the Aurora Borealis on Earth, these lights stretch far across the globe. Snaking swirls of yellow and red and green..

FLIP:

So, we're going to see a musical outdoors and the sky'll light up?

DOCTOR:

Yes.

FLIP:

I hope the food's good. We can get on with Festin food?

DOCTOR:

Oh yes, we're biologically quite compatible.

FLIP:

So you can eat a pie here? Good.

SCENE 7: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Entering governed airway circuit. Automatic navigation available.

HALUS:

Handing over.

FX: PING TO AUTOMATIC.

HALUS:

(RELAXES) Any messages?

CORTEX:

(CAR) No new contacts.

HALUS:

No assignments?

CORTEX:

(CAR) Your labour bank is empty.

HALUS:

(SIGHS) Any News highlights?

CORTEX:

(CAR) A fresh Nihilist incident has occurred on the South-eastern seaboard. Enforcement has the area secured but emergency responders report some loss of life.

HALUS:

(UPSET) Not again? Set me down, car. There by the bridge. I need some air.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Descending.

FX: AIRCAR DESCENDING.

SCENE 8: EXT. PARK. DUSK.

FX: THE RIVER GORGE IS NEARER. HALUS' AIRCAR LANDS NEARBY UNDER DIALOGUE. THE DOCTOR AND FLIP WALK ON.

DOCTOR:

See that star coming up, Flip?

FLIP:

Which one?

DOCTOR:

The slightly orange one. Low down by those towers.

FLIP:

Oh, the dull one. Got it.

DOCTOR:

That's Guitonus, this system's nearest neighbour. It's around two light days away.

FLIP:

Light days?

DOCTOR:

Yes, it's a subdivision of light years. Don't pretend you don't know. (SMUG) That star exploded one and a half days ago.

FLIP:

But we can still see it?

DOCTOR:

Yes, because the light from it exploding hasn't got here yet, but tonight it will. As we sit in that arena, energy from its death will bombard the ionosphere. There'll be a globe-spanning aurora more dramatic than any Festin's ever seen... and, thanks to time travel, we'll be the only ones expecting it!

FLIP:

No-one here knows it's about to explode?

DOCTOR:

No!

FLIP:

But they're so advanced - this city, those cars. I'd have thought they'd have sensors or something.

DOCTOR:

No. From what I gather the Festins don't have a passion for Space research. Maybe this'll spur an interest.

FLIP:

You must have seen stuff like this before, though?

DOCTOR:

Yes, once or twice... but never with a whole theatre audience... and never through your eyes, Flip.

FLIP:

You want me to feel like you, don't you? One step ahead of the crowd.

DOCTOR:

What's wrong with that?

FLIP:

Hey - there's an aircar parked by the bridge! Let's see we can sweet-talk the driver into giving us a lift.

FX: SHE RUSHES AHEAD.

DOCTOR:

You good at sweet-talking aliens?

FLIP:

(CALLING BACK) Must be! I travel with you, don't I?

SCENE 9: INT. TOWER LOUNGE. DUSK.

FX: KHORALLA RUNS UPSTAIRS. SHE ACTIVATES A TELEPHONE-LIKE COMMUNICATOR.

KHORALLA:

(BREATHLESS) Hello, enforcement?

CORTEX:

(COMMUNICATOR) This call unit is currently inoperable. Excessive electromagnetic background.

KHORALLA:

Signal's swamped!

BAV:

(TREATMENT, CLUMPING UPSTAIRS) Musst cleansse! The Urge musst be freed!

KHORALLA:

Bav, please! Keep away from me!

BAV:

(TREATMENT, ENTERING) Desstroy!

SCENE 10: EXT. BRIDGE. DUSK

FX: AIRCARS ABOVE. WIND WHIPS IN GORGE, THE RIVER BELOW. FLIP APPROACHES, MOVING FROM PATH TO METAL BRIDGE.

FLIP:

Mister? Hello Mister? Is that your car there?

HALUS:

Sorry? What...? Yes.

FLIP:

Nice... I was going to say wheels but hasn't got wheels, has it?

HALUS:

No.

FLIP:

Nice whatever it does have though... Definitely. I'm Flip.

HALUS:

(FLAT) Oh.

FLIP:

(PUSHING TO ENGAGE) Pleased to meet you. That's a funny name, "Oh". I know I can talk being called Flip..

HALUS:

My name's not "Oh", it's Halus.

FLIP:

Oh. (PAUSE) So what are you doing, Halus?

HALUS:

Nothing.

FLIP:

So, I'm not interrupting anything?

HALUS:

You're a strange one, aren't you?

FLIP:

Aw, thanks!

HALUS:

Why can't I read you?

FLIP:

Dunno. Maybe I'm in the wrong language? So, this nothing you're doing - is it any particular kind of nothing?

HALUS:

No, I was just standing on the bridge here, thinking. Looking at the river, watching the sunset...

FLIP:

Oh good. (CAUTIOUS) Because there was this man my mum knew. Long time ago now. He went thinking by the river once... (BEAT) You weren't thinking bad stuff?

FX: DOCTOR ARRIVES.

DOCTOR:

(BONHOMIE) Hello, I see you've met my friend Flip! I'm the Doctor and we were wondering...

FLIP:

Not now, Doctor. (BEAT) Are you OK, Halus?

HALUS:

Me? Course. Just a hard day. Needed to compose myself. Sort my thoughts out. Well, you're a physician - you'll understand.

DOCTOR:

Regrettably, I'm not that kind of doctor.

FLIP:

Tell me.

HALUS:

It's just stuff, the usual. To start with I've just finished a job and that's always hard, a team breaking up-

FLIP:

What do you do?

HALUS:

Airway projection, we weave the roads up there.

DOCTOR:

You engineer all that? Quite a feat! Tell me, the field fluctuations-

HALUS:

I'm not an elite. I'm on the practical side, getting the projector arrays set up.

DOCTOR:

Ah.

FLIP:

You said "to start with". So that's not the only thing bothering you.

HALUS:

No. The next job's the worry. The Cortex has stopped offering work, hasn't it? Nothing for labourers like me. Don't know what I'm doing next...

FLIP:

Something will come up, a city this size must need constant repairs.

HALUS:

Oh, it does, all the time now. And that's the other thing, the one that made me... come here. I heard there'd been another Nihilist attack. They seem to be all the time now. It gets to you, doesn't it?

FLIP:

So, you just wanted to take a bit of time out to watch the sun set...?

HALUS:

I guess. (SHEEPISH) I needed to look at something beautiful.

DOCTOR:

(GLEEFUL) Oh Halus, if you think that sunset's impressive, just you wait! I can promise you fireworks very soon that'll take your breath away!

SCENE 11: INT. TOWER LOUNGE. DUSK.

BAV:

(TREATMENT) Musst end thiss!

FX: CRACKLING FLAMES FLY AROUND. SMALL ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS, SPARKING. KHORALLA SCREAMS AS WINDOWS SHATTER, FLAME JETTING OUT.

SCENE 12: EXT. BRIDGE. DUSK. (CONTINUOUS)

FX: THE TOWER EXPLOSION FROM DISTANCE. FLAMES AND SPARKS. KHORALLA'S SCREAMS. GLASS TINKLING ONTO PAVEMENT. SOME STRUCTURAL CREAKING.

FLIP:

What was that?

HALUS:

That Tower House!

DOCTOR:

Up at the top - the fifth floor. There's someone in there! A woman, I think.

HALUS:

It's a Nihilist attack! It must be!

FX: ANOTHER SMALL EXPLOSION. SOME RUBBLE AND STRUCTURE STRAINING.

DOCTOR:

Energy discharges must have blown the generator!

FLIP:

We've got to rescue that woman!

FLIP RUNS TOWARDS TOWER.

DOCTOR:

Flip! You can't just go charging in - that building's not safe!

FX: THE DOCTOR TAKES A STEP BUT HALUS GRABS HIM.

HALUS:

No Doctor. You stay with me!

DOCTOR:

(STRUGGLES) Get off me!

HALUS:

It'll just be one family. Leave it to the response teams.

DOCTOR:

That's hardly the point. (CALLS) Flip! (SHE DOESN'T STOP. HE GROANS) Oh she's in there now! I'll probably have to rescue her too. Halus, quickly - can we get to that top window with your aircar?

HALUS:

Don't think so. It'd need a pulse-link and with all that sparking I'm not sure it'll be stable.

DOCTOR:

There must be some way.

HALUS:

We could try Lev plates.

DOCTOR:

Lev plates?

HALUS:

Floating work cradles - we use them at heights. If we commandeered three or four they could help shore the building up.

DOCTOR:

Perfect. Where can we find some?

HALUS:

My workplace.

DOCTOR:

Is it far?

HALUS:

Not by aircar.

SCENE 13: INT. TOWER. STAIRWELL. DUSK.

FX: GROUND LEVEL. BUILDING CREAKS. SMASHING AND SPARKING ABOVE.

FLIP:

(CALLING) Hello? I'm on the stairs. I'm coming up!

FX: KHORALLA SCREAMS ABOVE.

FLIP:

(CALLING) Don't panic, I'm on my way!

SCENE 14: INT. AIRCAR. DUSK.

FX: THE CAR SITS NEAR THE BRIDGE.

HALUS:

Strap yourself in Doctor. I just need to start us up.

FX: HALUS PLACES HEAD ON NECK REST. CAR BEEPS.

DOCTOR:

Let's see, so it buckles here?

FX: SEATBELT FASTENS.

CORTEX:

Lode key recognised. Welcome back, Worker Halus. Where may I take you?

DOCTOR:

Your car key's in your neck?

HALUS:

Just up. It's an emergency- I need to fly manual.

FX: HALUS SECURES SEATBELT.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Safety harness in place. Door closing. Manual control.

FX: DOOR CLOSES. ELEVATION NOISE.

SCENE 15: INT. TOWER LOUNGE. DUSK.

FX: BAV SPARKS AND FLAMES. BELOW FLIP POUNDS UPSTAIRS.

BAV:

(TREATMENT) All musst burn! Free the Urge!

KHORALLA:

Please no, Bav...

FLIP:

(ASCENDING) Don't worry, whatever the problem is, I can help.

(CLOCKS BAV) What the heck!? Alright, maybe I exaggerated.

KHORALLA:

Get down!

BAV:

(ROARS)

FX: FLAME JETS TOWARDS FLIP.

KHORALLA:

(GRUNTS AS SHE LEAPS)

FX: KHORALLA BRINGS FLIP DOWN WITH A RUGBY TACKLE. THE STAIRWAY IGNITES BEHIND THEM.

FLIP:

(WINDED) Aah!

KHORALLA:

Are you hurt?

FLIP:

Just winded. If you'd not knocked me behind this sofa I'd be in a far worse state.

FX: MORE FLAME. STRAIGHT AT SOFA. IT STARTS SMOULDERING.

FLIP:

(COUGHS) Not sure it'll last much longer. What is that thing?

KHORALLA:

It used to be my partner.

FLIP:

I can see why you split up.

BAV:

(TREATMENT) Musst make thiss cease!

KHORALLA:

She wasn't like this before, she was normal.

FX: ANOTHER BLAST TO SOFA.

FLIP:

(COUGHS) What's your name?

KHORALLA:

Khoralla.

FLIP:

Mine's Flip. Is there anyone else here?

KHORALLA:

No, this tower's just ours. We'd hoped maybe one day-

FLIP:

We need to get you out of here fast, Khoralla. The fumes off this aren't good.

KHORALLA:

Can we get back to the stairs?

FLIP:

No. We'd be toasted.

KHORALLA:

If we can get to another window we could draw attention outside.

FLIP:

Good thinking. I've got a friend below. We'll need somewhere we can defend. Somewhere with a solid door that won't burn quick.

KHORALLA:

There's one place.

FLIP:

Can we get there?

KHORALLA:

We'd have to get past Bav. It's the other side of the building.

FLIP:

We'll need to draw her fire. Grab any cushions you can safely reach.

SCENE 16: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK.

FX: WIND NOISE. AIRCAR PASSES.

DOCTOR:

How far is it now? I don't like to think of Flip in that building.

HALUS:

Not long.

FX: DEEP ENERGY THRUM (A PULSE-LINK). THE AIRCAR SWERVES.

DOCTOR:

Forgive me, Halus, I thought you'd switched off that autopilot thing to be more direct.

HALUS:

I did.

FX: POLICE AIRCAR PASSES AT DISTANCE.

DOCTOR:

Only, judging by that 3D map display, we're taking quite a curious route.

HALUS:

Just following the airways.

DOCTOR:

Yes, they're more circuitous than I'd imagined - all ups, downs and odd curlicues. Can't you just make your own way?

HALUS:

No, I can only punch short pulse-links with this unit. It's not one of your elite cars with a big battery.

FX: PULSE-LINK THRUM. CAR SWERVES.

DOCTOR:

Let's look at that map thing, see if I can't work out a shortcut...

FX: BLEEPS AND WHIRRS OF DOCTOR MANIPULATING, ROTATING MAP.

DOCTOR:

Now, if you show me where we're headed I'm sure... (TRAILS OFF, PERTURBED) Oh.

HALUS:

Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Just the strangest feeling... Déjà vu. Occupational hazard when you've 'vu'ed as much as I have, but something about the arrangement of these roads is familiar..

SCENE 17: INT. TOWER LOUNGE. DUSK.

FX: SPARKS AND FLAMES. BAV'S FIZZ.

FLIP:

Alright Khoralla. When I count three we throw these cushions and run for that door, alright?

KHORALLA:

Wouldn't it be easier just to give me a lode sign?

FLIP:

A what?

KHORALLA:

A lode sign.

FX: KHORALLA REACHES FOR FLIP.

FLIP:

What you feeling my neck for?

KHORALLA:

You don't have a lode cell... You're not from here, are you?

FLIP:

Let's chat about that after, yeah? – Aim for the corner. One, two, three.

FLIP and KHORALLA:

(EXERTION AS THEY THROW CUSHIONS)

FX: BAV ATTACKS THE CUSHIONS WITH FIRE.

FLIP:

(UNDER FLAME BURSTS) Run!

BAV:

(TREATMENT) Sstop!

FX: KHORALLA AND FLIP RACE ACROSS ROOM. THEY GET THROUGH THE DOOR AND CLOSE IT JUST AS BAV SENDS A FIREBALL AFTER THEM.

SCENE 18: INT. TOWER CORRIDOR. DUSK. (CONTINUOUS).

FX: FIRE AGAINST CLOSED DOOR.

FLIP:

We made it!

KHORALLA:

(RUNNING) Quickly! Down the passage! That door won't last.
(OPENS DOOR AT END) In here!

FLIP:

(FOLLOWS) Right behind you!

SCENE 19: INT. BATHROOM. DUSK. (CONTINUOUS).

FX: HARD TILED REVERB. PIPES GURGLE.

FLIP:

It's a bathroom!

SCENE 20: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK.

FX: MORE POLICE AMONG CARS OUTSIDE. PULSE-LINK. CAR SWERVE.

DOCTOR:

This isn't the route to your work is it, Halus?

HALUS:

I wondered how soon you'd recognise the Enforcement block.

DOCTOR:

I don't understand.

HALUS:

You can drop the pretence, Doctor. I saw the glee in your eyes when you talked about those "fireworks"! You're in league with the Nihilists.

DOCTOR:

What? You think I meant that explosion? That wasn't what I was talking about! That was just a coincidence. I was talking about something on a far greater scale.

HALUS:

Oh, got something bigger planned?

DOCTOR:

Now you're just wilfully misunderstanding me! If we'd been behind that explosion, why would my friend Flip have run into the building? Hmm? It doesn't make sense!

HALUS:

I don't think Flip's a Nihilist. I think you are - a sympathiser at the very least. Your class are all the same.

DOCTOR:

My class? My class? What class do you think I am?

HALUS:

You're one of the elite aren't you? So full of yourself you don't even give off a proper lode trace.

DOCTOR:

Listen, my good man, I am not one of your elite! Where I come from I'm considered positively plebeian.

HALUS:

Well, I'd hate to live there.

DOCTOR:

Forgive me, much as I'd love to continue with this enthralling debate, there are more pressing matters at hand. I wonder, could I see that 'car key' of yours again?

FX: DOCTOR GRABS HALUS AT BACK OF NECK.

HALUS:

What are you doing? Get off me!

DOCTOR:

Yes, an odd little node at the back of your neck. If I just apply a little pressure here...

HALUS:

No... (TRAILS OFF)

FX: HALUS SLUMPS FORWARD. HEAVY BREATHING.

DOCTOR:

The old Chatterton nerve pinch, never fails. That's right, Halus. You rest.

SCENE 21: INT. BATHROOM. DUSK.

FLIP:

What kind of place to hide is a bathroom?

KHORALLA:

I thought with the tiles it was less likely to catch fire. And there's a lock... I'm sorry. I panicked.

FLIP:

No, don't be, it makes sense, kind of. Let's break this window. See if we can get some attention. (LOOKS AROUND) What can I smash it with?

KHORALLA:

You could use the shower head. The object there with the tubing.

FLIP:

Yeah, I'm from another planet but we still have showers there. Help hold me steady on the edge of the bath. (FLIP STANDS ON BATH)

KHORALLA:

You've met people from other worlds before, haven't you?

FLIP:

Stacks. This your first?

FX: FLIP GRABBING SHOWER HEAD.

KHORALLA:

Yes. The first for any Festin, I suppose.

FX: WINDOW BREAK. WIND NOISE. DISTANT AIRCARS.

FLIP:

Can't see my friend. Can't see anyone much now the sun's setting. I'd have expected a few hunky firemen at the very least.

KHORALLA:

The emergency response units are probably busy in the South-east. There's been something big there.

FLIP:

Does this kind of thing happen a lot here? People turning into fire monsters?

KHORALLA:

No. I mean you hear party chatter, but I'd always assumed the Nihilists were disgruntled workers. I thought the stories of people burning were just myths. The worst thing is I didn't think they could be people like me and Bav.

FLIP:

I'm coming down. Hold me steady. (KHORALLA HELPS) Thanks.

FX: BEHIND DOOR- ROARING BAV. FLAME AND SPARKS.

SCENE 22: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK.

FX: HALUS' SLEEPY BREATHING.

DOCTOR:

So, to take a short cut I need to use this pulse-link thing.

FX: PULSE-LINK THRUM. AIRCAR LURCHES CRAZILY.

DOCTOR:

(ALARM) Whooooah!

FX: PULSE-LINK AGAIN. CAR STABILIZES.

DOCTOR:

(TRIUMPH) Ha!

CORTEX:

(CAR) Manual piloting erratic. Please re-engage automation.

DOCTOR:

(PETULANT) Shan't! — Now, where's that tower? I have to find Flip.

FX: PULSE-LINK AND SWERVE.

DOCTOR:

There! Oh no, that tower doesn't look at all stable!

FX: LOTS OF AIRCARS SWERVING IN. CAR HORNS.

DOCTOR:

What's going on?! Get out of my way, air hogs!

SCENE 23: INT. BATHROOM. DUSK.

FX: THE DOOR IS CRACKLING AND SPITTING.

BAV:

(TREATMENT, THROUGH DOOR) The Urge must be released!

KHORALLA:

The door's smoking, Flip. Bav'll be in soon.

FLIP:

Get in the bath!

KHORALLA:

What?

FX: FLIP TURNS SINK TAPS ON. WATER SPLASHING EVERYWHERE.

FLIP:

It's shelter. It might insulate us from any electric stuff.

KHORALLA:

And what are you doing?

FLIP:

Clogging the sink.

KHORALLA:

Why?

FLIP:

I just thought if we can flood the room, we might cool that thing down. Water and fire- don't get on, do they?

FX: THE DOOR'S COLLAPSING.

KHORALLA:

The door's giving! Get in the bath with me!

FX: FLIP GETS IN BATH, GRABBING SHOWER HEAD.

FLIP:

Actually, water and electricity don't get on either!

KHORALLA:

What are you doing with the shower?

FLIP:

Following a hunch!

FX: DOOR COLLAPSES. BAV STOMPS IN.

BAV:

(TREATMENT) Musst end it all!

FLIP:

Here Sparky! See if this cools you down!

FX: JET OF WATER HITS BAV. HISSING, CRACKLING, SHORTING
ELECTRICITY. THEN BOOM! BAV FALLS APART. SMASHING TILES,
DEBRIS.

KHORALLA:

You did it, Flip! You saved us.

FX: STRUCTURAL CREAKS.

FLIP:

Yeah, I did, didn't I? ...but I don't think we're safe yet. Don't
get out the bath, Khoralla!

FX: CEILING CRASHES DOWN.

SCENE 24: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK.

FX: LOTS OF AIRCARS BUZZING AROUND. SIRENS CLOSING IN.

DOCTOR:

Oh, I see! You lot are still on automatic pilot- you're working together to pen me in.

FX: AIRCAR WHOOSHES CLOSE.

DOCTOR:

Ah, ah! Don't you dare try ramming me, you airborne Messala!

FX: PULSE-LINK. CAR LURCHES AWAY. HORNS.

DOCTOR:

Ha, jumped roads! Didn't expect that, did you?
Nearly there. Hang on Flip.

FX: METAL CABLES ZING BY LIKE SLINKIES. ONE CLANKS ONTO OUR AIRCAR.

DOCTOR:

What was that? A grappling hook?

FX: PING OF AIRCAR GOING TO AUTOMATIC.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Contact made with enforcement over-ride. Restraining unsafe pilot.

DOCTOR:

What?

FX: HARNESS CREAKING, BEING REELED IN.

DOCTOR:

(STRUGGLES) Ah! The seatbelt's tightening! I can't undo it!

CORTEX:

(CAR) Deploying emergency impact cushioning.

FX: HISS AND FLUMP OF AIRBAGS EXPANDING.

DOCTOR:

Get these airbags off me! I need to get to Flip!

CROSS TO:

SCENE 25: EXT. BRIDGE. DUSK. [CONTINUOUS]

FX: TOTAL, DEVASTATING COLLAPSE OF TOWER. LOTS OF BACKGROUND SIRENS.

CROSS TO:

SCENE 26: INT. AIRCAR FLYING. DUSK. (CONTINUOUS).

FX: MUFFLED TOWER COLLAPSE HEARD IN AIRCAR.

DOCTOR:

Flip! Please, car, let me get down there.

FX: AIRBAGS EXPANDING.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Impact cushioning successfully deployed.

DOCTOR:

(MUFFLED BY AIRBAGS) Get this thing off my face! I can't breathe! Need to... get to... Flip!

FX: HE PASSES OUT.

CORTEX:

(CAR) Unsafe pilot incapacitated.

GRAMS/FX: TIME LAPSE.

SCENE 27: INT. CELL. NIGHT.

FX: HARD ACOUSTIC. FLUORESCENT LIGHT HUM.

DOCTOR:

(WAKING) Flip...? Flip!

HALUS:

(BANGS DOOR) He's coming round! You can interrogate him now!

ENFORCER:

(THROUGH DOOR) Step away from cell door.

DOCTOR:

Halus! Where are we?

HALUS:

Where I was trying to take you- the Enforcement Block.

(SHOUTING) Though now these idiots seem to think we're in league!

ENFORCER:

(THROUGH DOOR) Step away from cell door.

DOCTOR:

That robot has the same voice as your autopilot..

HALUS:

The Enforcer? Of course it has. They're both Cortex run.

DOCTOR:

You out there, police robot! That collapsed tower - there's a good chance my friend Flip was in there -

HALUS:

Don't worry. It's Elite housing, there'll be response vehicles all over it.

DOCTOR:

You really do have a chip on your shoulder, don't you, Halus? Or perhaps in your neck..

SCENE 28: INT. WARD. NIGHT.

FX: HOSPITAL WARD. RESPIRATORS AND MONITORING BEEPS STRETCHING AWAY. FLIP STIRS IN BED.

FLIP:

Aah.

DAKEEM:

Don't move too quickly. You're probably a little disorientated.

FLIP:

(GROGGY) Did I leave the taps on...?

DAKEEM:

We weren't sure what level of pain relief to administer...

FLIP:

(SITS UP, DIZZY) Whoah! This level is quite good. Maybe a little bit too quite good. I'm... Where's Khoralla?

KHORALLA:

I'm here.

FLIP:

Good.

KHORALLA:

I was worried about you. You took a nasty blow to the head.

FLIP:

Did I?

DAKEEM:

When the tower collapsed.

FLIP:

It collapsed!?

KHORALLA:

Yes, the bath protected us. It made an air pocket.

FLIP:

Air pocket?

KHORALLA:

We had to be dug out by the response team.

FLIP:

So, is this a hospital?

KHORALLA:

It's a treatment centre. They flew us straight here.

DAKEEM:

I wonder... Flip, can you confirm what Citizen Girson's told me?

FLIP:

Citizen...?

KHORALLA:

He means me. Girson w... (ABOUT TO USE PAST TENSE, CHOOSES NOT TO) is my married name. He wants you to say what happened at the tower.

FLIP:

Yeah, but who is he?

DAKEEM:

Special physician Dakeem. I'm working with your assessment team.

FLIP:

Where's the Doctor?

DAKEEM:

She'll be attending other patients-

FLIP:

No, my Doctor!

DAKEEM:

Please Flip, further medical care can wait. First, I'll need your account of the incident. Everything, no matter how strange.

SCENE 29: INT. CELL. NIGHT.

FX: DOOR OPENS. ENFORCER ENTERS. DOOR CLOSSES AUTOMATICALLY BEHIND.

ENFORCER:

Prisoner will submit to interrogation.

DOCTOR:

Please, call me Doctor. I only go by "Prisoner" in formal settings.

ENFORCER:

Were you involved with the Nihilist Incident at Park View Tower?

DOCTOR:

Yes.

HALUS:

See?

DOCTOR:

I witnessed it, and attempted to get help. That's the total extent of my involvement.

HALUS:

He's lying! He knew it was coming. He said there'd be fireworks just before the explosion.

DOCTOR:

Pure coincidence. As you'll soon see. I was actually referring to an incredible aurora that'll light up your skies tonight. A nearby star called Guitonus has just gone nova, and it's about to give you quite a show. Of course, if you Festins had the basic curiosity to look up to the heavens, you'd know that already.

HALUS:

He's a nihilist! He's making this up!

DOCTOR:

If I were making something up, I'd be a great deal less specific.

FX: ENFORCER PROCESSING SOUND.

ENFORCER:

How do you know this?

DOCTOR:

Surely you've examined me? You must have realised I'm not of your world?

ENFORCER:

Your physiology is anomalous.

DOCTOR:

I'm flattered you noticed. Yes, two hearts, convoluted pulmonary system, piercing blue-green eyes... no lump at the nape of my neck. I'm really not from 'round here. Your "Nihilists" are really no concern of mine.

ENFORCER:

Further analysis required.

FX: PROCESSING. ENFORCER LEAVES. THE DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES BEHIND.

HALUS:

What's it doing? Why's it gone?

DOCTOR:

It's thinking... Or communicating with whatever does its thinking for it.

HALUS:

The Cortex?

DOCTOR:

If you say so. I take it the Cortex is a computer?

HALUS:

It's the city admin net. It assigns employment, runs enforcement, plans airway paths, everything. – Are you really not from Festin?

DOCTOR:

I am, as they say, just visiting.

HALUS:

And you've no lode cell?

DOCTOR:

Your neck bump? No. I assume it's an implant that lets you and the Cortex interact?

HALUS:

Not exactly.

DOCTOR:

Because I've a nasty feeling it could be letting more messages in than you're sending out... What do you mean, "not exactly"?

HALUS:

Lode cells aren't implanted. They're part of us. Always have been. We use them to connect to the Cortex now, but they're part of every animal on Festin. It's how we find our way around and get a sense of each other. They let us feel the world's energies.

SCENE 30: INT. WARD. NIGHT.

DAKEEM:

So did you hear the Nihilist creature-

KHORALLA:

Bav.

DAKEEM:

Did you hear it speak at all, Flip?

FLIP:

A bit. It wasn't chatty. It mainly sort of roared about destroying things. Then it destroyed things.

DAKEEM:

So it expressed no political, spiritual or philosophical viewpoints?

FLIP:

If it did I didn't hear them. It wasn't like it was going round saying "I think therefore I am" or anything. It mentioned an urge a few times, but that was it.

DAKEEM:

An "urge"?

FLIP:

Yeah. "Free the urge". Stuff like that.

DAKEEM:

That's useful.

FLIP:

Is it?

KHORALLA:

Physician Dakeem thinks transformations like Bav's are caused by unhealthy thoughts.

DAKEEM:

It seems to be a physical manifestation of a psychological illness. This "urge" has come up before. It suggests a common origin. Some thought pattern or emotional state that makes excess energy vent from the lode cells and triggers cellular combustion. (BEAT) Naturally that's classified.

FLIP:

Why?

DAKEEM:

People worrying they might turn into fire-beasts isn't good for anyone.

SCENE 31 (A): INT. CELL. NIGHT.

DOCTOR:

You know Halus, something that Enforcement robot said was quite revealing. Your Cortex knows more than it's telling you.

HALUS:

About the Nihilists?

DOCTOR:

No, I'm not even sure they exist. I'd not be surprised if they were an invention of the Cortex.

HALUS:

Why would it do that?

DOCTOR:

I don't know. Social control? To create an enemy within and keep you divided? It's been done before.

I've a feeling this Cortex sets the course of your lives in exactly the way it sets the routes of your aircars. You all feel you're free to follow your own paths, but in reality you're being nudged along predetermined tracks.

HALUS:

I don't believe it.

DOCTOR:

Well, you wouldn't, would you? I expect that's why you've never gone into space. The Cortex can't control the beings you'd meet there.

HALUS:

Oh, we've been into space, Doctor. My granddad worked on the rockets before the programme stopped.

DOCTOR:

Did he? So do you know why it stopped?

HALUS:

Probably got too expensive.

DOCTOR:

Pity.

HALUS:

Yes, the highest an engineer reaches these days is the ionosphere.

DOCTOR:

(AGREEMENT) Hmm. (BEAT) Why the ionosphere?

HALUS:

The airways. A lot of the new diversions loop up there. Useful at peak times.

That's what most of my last jobs have been doing - making sure the force lines project up that far.

DOCTOR:

Oh no. We need to get out of here, Halus!

HALUS:

Why?

DOCTOR:

Because in just a few hours the upper levels of your atmosphere will be glowing from pole to pole with supercharged plasma. If you've got airways reaching up into it, that energy could end up coursing through your road network! Millions, maybe billions could die!

HALUS:

It'd be like the biggest Nihilist attack ever.

DOCTOR:

Yes, one set up by the Cortex!

GRAMS: END OF EPISODE THEME.

PART TWO

GRAMS: OPENING THEME.

RECAP:

INT. CELL. NIGHT.

DOCTOR:

[...] We need to get out of here, Halus!

HALUS:

Why?

DOCTOR:

Because in just a few hours the upper levels of your atmosphere will be glowing from pole to pole with supercharged plasma. If you've got airways reaching up into it, that energy could end up coursing through your road network! Millions, maybe billions could die!

HALUS:

It'd be like the biggest Nihilist attack ever.

DOCTOR:

Yes, one set up by the Cortex!

CONTINUES INTO:

SCENE 31 (B): INT. CELL. NIGHT. [CONTINUOUS]

HALUS:

(DENIAL) But that'd be monstrous! The loss of life- the Cortex couldn't permit it!

DOCTOR:

Not unless all your 'little' lives mattered less to it than some 'grander' design.

SCENE 32: INT. OFFICE. NIGHT.

FX: TREATMENT CENTRE OFFICE. BAV'S MUSE DEVICE CHIMES ON DESK. DAKEEM SCROLLS THROUGH HIGH-SPEED TEXT.

CORTEX:

(MUSE, VERY FAST AND SQUEAKY, ONLY DECIPHERABLE BY DETERMINED)
"The sage looked up the mountain and saw that while the villagers would die in the avalanche, the towns below could still be saved. She stood on the slope and screamed the snow down in the name of the Founders."

FX: DOOR OPENS.

DAKEEM:

Muse spool end.

FX: MUSE POWERS DOWN.

KHORALLA:

May I come in, Dakeem?

DAKEEM:

Citizen Girson. Please.

KHORALLA:

Flip's sleeping again.

DAKEEM:

Possibly the pain relief. Her biochemistry's similar to ours but without lode cells for Cortex feedback it's hard to judge the right dose. All those drugs racked up on shelves behind us, and only a handful we dare to use.

KHORALLA:

That's Bav's Muse, isn't it?

DAKEEM:

Yes. It was recovered from the scene.

KHORALLA:

She was writing a libretto on it.

DAKEEM:

I've seen.

KHORALLA:

It's based on a Foundation era text- 'The Mortification of Saint Rasapon'.

DAKEEM:

I know it. Self-abnegation, isolation, despair...

KHORALLA:

And triumph.

DAKEEM:

Really?

KHORALLA:

Yes, at the end of Rasapon's trials. No one knows it, but she saves the valley from the flood.

DAKEEM:

I suppose so.

KHORALLA:

So, are you expecting to find the trigger to Nihilism in there? It's not like it's Festin's most obscure legend.

DAKEEM:

No. Maybe a trigger, a contributory factor. Nihilism could be related to disturbed emotions and there is a certain melancholy in this...

KHORALLA:

Yes, but that in lots of our culture, isn't it? Tonight... before all this, we were going to the opera- 'The Martyrdom of Baran-Selan', another tragic one. Even our children's stories have it- look at 'The Broken Toy Cart'! You don't hear about nurseries full of children turning Nihilist!

DAKEEM:

No.

SCENE 33: INT. CELL. NIGHT.

ENFORCER:

(THROUGH DOOR) Step away from cell door.

FX: DOOR OPENS. ENFORCER ENTERS.

DOCTOR:

Finally! There you are!

ENFORCER:

You are free to go.

DOCTOR:

Thank you, I'm grateful you've seen sense but our first priority is to prevent [a disaster]

ENFORCER:

No. You are to remain here. Worker Halus – You are free to go.

HALUS:

Me?

DOCTOR:

What possible justification can you have for detaining me?

ENFORCER:

You are alien. Your motivations are unknown. You may be a danger to Festin society.

DOCTOR:

No! You're the danger to Festin society, enforcer, or rather this Cortex you serve is. Your airway layout's like a crazy lightning rod! It could set this whole world alight and, more to the point, you know it.

You asked me how I knew about Guitonus exploding. You didn't ask why I thought it might. I think that's rather telling, don't you?

ENFORCER:

You will be questioned further. Worker Halus, You will leave.

DOCTOR:

Halus, you're an engineer, see if you can put an end to this!

ENFORCER:

You will leave.

HALUS:

(LEAVES WITH ENFORCER) What can I do, Doctor? I'm just one man.

DOCTOR:

Find Flip, she'll help you! You may be just one man, Halus, but with Flip by your side you can do anything!

FX: DOOR CLOSES.

DOCTOR:

Just so long as she's still alive.

GRAMS: TIME LAPSE.

SCENE 34: INT. WARD. NIGHT.

FX: SIDE DOOR OPENS. KHORALLA COMES OUT.

FLIP:

(FROM BED) Khoralla? Is that you?

KHORALLA:

Flip! You're awake. How are you feeling now?

FLIP:

A little sore. I think the anaesthetic must be wearing off.

KHORALLA:

We could get you more. There's shelves of drugs racked up in that office.

FLIP:

No, I think I've had enough. I had the maddest dreams.

KHORALLA:

Stranger than real life?

FLIP:

(SITTING UP) Yeah, my mum and Jared ballroom dancing. And Jared hates dancing. He's not watched Strictly since Holly Valance went.

KHORALLA:

Right.

FLIP:

(STANDS) Come on, we need to find the Doctor.

KHORALLA:

I can call for assistance.

FLIP:

No, my friend the Doctor.

FX: APPROACHING STEPS.

HALUS:

Hello? I'm looking for Flip. I was told she was on this ward.

FLIP:

Halus! We were just- Is the Doctor with you?

HALUS:

I'm afraid not.

SCENE 35: INT. OFFICE. NIGHT.

FX: MUSE REWINDING QUICKLY.

DAKEEM:

(PONDERING) I wonder... That melancholy- all the self sacrifice. Laying your life down.

(REVELATION) What keeps coming up in these texts is our ideals mattering more than we do.

(LAUGHS) Oh, maybe that's it! Maybe that's the urge. All we are is a vehicle for an idea!

(HE LAUGHS AGAIN, THEN GASPS. PAIN. FEAR) No! No!

FX: DAKEEM'S TABLE RATTLES AS DAKEEM QUIVERS AND SHAKES, STARTING TO FIZZ.

DAKEEM:

It's in me! I'm starting to burn...!

SCENE 36: INT. CELL. NIGHT

ENFORCER:

(THROUGH DOOR) Step away from cell door.

FX: DOOR OPENS.

DOCTOR:

Finally back are you? Good... because I've a few things you might want to hear. My people are more powerful than you may imagine and when they realise-

ENFORCER:

In.

FLIP:

(ENTERS) Alright, I'm going.

DOCTOR:

Flip! You're safe!

FX: DOOR SHUTS.

FLIP:

'Course I am. I'm always safe, aren't I?

DOCTOR:

So Halus found you.

FLIP:

Yeah, he said you were locked up and we had to get you free quick, so I thought I'd come and bust you out.

DOCTOR:

Yes... you do realise 'busting me out' would probably work better as a plan if we weren't now locked up together?

FLIP:

No, that's the clever bit. Come over here.

FX: DOCTOR GOES OVER, SIGHING.

FLIP:

There's odd stuff going on here, Doctor, wrong stuff.

DOCTOR:

I know.

FLIP:

There's people called Nihilists disrupting things...

DOCTOR:

(SMUG) I know. But they don't exist, do they?

FLIP:

No they do, I've met one. They burst into flames and zap electric everywhere. That's what blew that big house up.

DOCTOR:

No, no, I'm convinced they're invented by the Festin computer system to keep people in check. They're a convenient fiction.

FLIP:

Well, I'm sorry, I've seen one.

DOCTOR:

What?

FLIP:

(CROUCHING IN CORNER) Yeah, they seem to be something to do with people getting miserable.

DOCTOR:

Flip? Why are you curling up like that?

FLIP:

Because it can't be long now. You should too.

DOCTOR:

What can't be long now?

FX: CRASH AS WALL SMASHES IN. STONE AND BUCKLING METAL, A FEW SPARKS. AN ALARM. WE HEAR WIND AND AIRCARS OUTSIDE.

FLIP:

That!

DOCTOR:

It's an aircar!

FLIP:

Yeah. Clever plan, eh? Halus gave me a few minutes to get locked up and get you away from that wall, then he aimed his car at it!

DOCTOR:

Oh no, that wreck- is Halus in there?

HALUS:

(OUTSIDE, BELOW) Come on, Doctor! We're just out here!

DOCTOR:

(RELIEVED, RUSHES TO HOLE) Halus! How did you do that?

HALUS:

(OUTSIDE, BELOW) Set aircar to manual, fired pulses at the wall and got out quick.

Now get down here before the pursuit cars launch!

SCENE 37: EXT. ENFORCEMENT BLOCK. NIGHT.

FX: SIREN LOUD. HIGH WIND. AIRCAR PASSES. DOCTOR AND FLIP SCRAMBLING OUT THE CELL.

ENFORCER:

(LOUDSPEAKER) Containment cell 9 breached, deploy available units.

DOCTOR:

Come on Flip, take my hand. Don't look down! The aircar's just here.

HALUS:

(BELOW) Jump in before the link decays!

DOCTOR:

Ready?

FLIP:

Here goes!

DOCTOR AND FLIP:

(JUMPING) Aaaah...!

FX: DOCTOR AND FLIP LAND HARD ON SEATS OF OPEN AIRCAR.

SCENE 38: INT. LARGE AIRCAR FLYING. NIGHT (CONTINUOUS).

FX: DOORS CLOSING, CUTTING OUT WIND.

CORTEX:
(CAR) DOORS CLOSING.

HALUS:
Go!

KHORALLA:
Already doing it. Brace yourselves back there!

FX: PULSE LINK AND THE CAR SWOOPS AWAY. DISTANT POLICE.

DOCTOR:
(STRAIGHTENING UP) The lady from the tower! You got out!

KHORALLA:
My name's Khoralla, Flip rescued me.

FLIP:
Making a habit of it, aren't I?

DOCTOR:
You are rather, but please do try to think now and again before leaping in.

KHORALLA:
My partner had turned Nihilist.

FLIP:
She changed into a fire monster, Doctor. How's that even work?

DOCTOR:
I don't know.

KHORALLA:
There's a physician called Dakeem working on it at the local treatment centre. It seems to be brought on by an unstable mental state.

HALUS:
They say it's when you're weakened emotionally.

KHORALLA:
Who does?

HALUS:
(DEFENSIVE) People. You hear rumours... people on edge.

DOCTOR:

I think this whole society may have been deliberately kept on edge for some time. It's possible these Nihilists are the unfortunate few who can't cope.

But why? And what's the Cortex playing at with the airways? Do you mind if I look at this road map?

KHORALLA:

Be my guest.

FX: BLEEP AND WHIRR OF 3D MAP ROTATION.

DOCTOR:

It's like a page from a book..

FLIP:

How? Its 3D, bits move around.

DOCTOR:

A Time Lord book, Flip. Their pages reach into dimensions your books can't. Makes it very easy to lose your place.

(BEAT) Oh no... It's like something from an Old Time book, from before the Cosmos was made stable.

FLIP:

What?

DOCTOR:

I think this map's a sigil.

KHORALLA:

And what does that actually mean?

DOCTOR:

It means we're in the middle of something more terrible than you can possibly imagine.

We need to get access to the Cortex and close down those links to the ionosphere.

HALUS:

Could the computers at the treatment centre do that?

DOCTOR:

With some encouragement from me? I hope so.

SCENE 39: INT. OFFICE. DAY.

FX: DAKEEM RATTLES CHAOTICALLY THROUGH BAYS RACKED WITH DRUGS. HANDS FLARING AND SPARKING.

DAKEEM:

Must be something in here to stop it.

FX: HE PICKS UP TABLET JARS, READING LABELS AND DISCARDING THEM. SPARKS BUILD.

DAKEEM:

No, not a stimulant! Need something else...

FX: WHOMP! FLAMES RISE FROM FINGERS.

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) No! Need to keep this controlled!

SCENE 40: INT. WARD. NIGHT.

FX: KHORALLA, HALUS, DOCTOR AND FLIP ENTER.

KHORALLA:

The ward computer's down here!

DOCTOR:

Halus- with me. Let's see what we can do.

FX: DOCTOR TYPING ON A KEYPAD.

HALUS:

if you think I can help..

DOCTOR:

(FRUSTRATED) Uh! These terminals are useless! They link to the patients minds, here, but there's no way I can use them to influence the Cortex.

FLIP:

Are you sure?

DOCTOR:

Yes!

DAKEEM:

(OFF, BEHIND SIDE DOOR) Aaaargh!

DOCTOR:

What was that?

KHORALLA:

It sounded like Dakeem.

HALUS:

Dakeem?

KHORALLA:

The physician working on Nihilism.

DOCTOR:

It came from somewhere over here I think. (GOING WRONG WAY)

KHORALLA:

No, this way. The office he was in before. I felt it in my lode cells.

DOCTOR:

Shall we see?

FX: THEY HEAD TO SIDE DOOR.

SCENE 41. INT. OFFICE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS).

FX: DOOR OPENS. THEY ENTER, KICKING RATTLY TABLET CONTAINERS ACROSS FLOOR.

DOCTOR:

It's a bit of a state. Pill containers everywhere...

KHORALLA:

It wasn't like this before. (CALLS) Dakeem?

Maybe he's over in the shelving racks? (CALLS) Dakeem?

FX: SLIGHT CRACKLE AND SPARK FROM DAKEEM IN THE RACKS AT OFFICE REAR.

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) Yess.

FLIP:

Oh no. It's happening again. He's turned Nihilist.

HALUS:

Run! Now!

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) No.. I have the urge.. in check.

FX: THE OTHERS APPROACH THE RACKS.

DOCTOR:

You're controlling it. How?

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) Medication here. Dampenss the feelingss.

FX: ALARMING CRACKLE.

FLIP:

Not completely.

DAKEEM:

The urge iss hard to keep down. The dart gun by your left, Citizen Girsson. If I become dangerous... that sshould control me.

KHORALLA:

(SCOOPS UP DART GUN) Got it.

DOCTOR:

What is this urge, Dakeem?

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) Ssomething insside uss. Ssomething dormant.

DOCTOR:

But what triggers it? Is it the Cortex?

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) No... The Cortex iss jusst a tool.

HALUS:

It's depression, isn't it?

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) No. It'ss elation, a realissation of insignificance- the joyouss disscovey you're jusst a vessssel for the urge.

FX: SPARKS AND FLAMES. CRASHING PILL BOXES.

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) Keep back, jusst thinking about it, makess me want to desstroy.

DOCTOR:

So, if it's not the Cortex, what is it?

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT) It'ss part of who we are, it'ss always been in uss. We need to desstroy the basse to sserve the ideal, even when the basse is oursselvess... (GASPS, LOSING CONTROL)

DOCTOR:

What about the roads, that sigil form?

FX: MUCH PAIN CRACKLING.

HALUS:

Flip, get back.

FX: A FIREBALL SHOOTS PAST FLIP. BOTTLES CASCADE.

FLIP:

(ALARM)

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT, FIGHTING SELF) Can't control it! Do it, Citizen Girsson! The dart gun!

KHORALLA:

If you're sure...

FX: KHORALLA FIRES. A HISS OF TRANQUILISER DART.

DAKEEM:

(TREATMENT, RELEASE) Aah!

FX: THE FLAMES AND SPARKS DIE. DAKEEM KEELS OVER.

FLIP:

The flames are going out!

DOCTOR:

Oh, no, no, no! I think I know, why. (RUSHES OVER TO EXAMINE DAKEEM, DISTRESS) I thought so! He put a lethally high dose in the ampoule darts!

FLIP:

Why would he do that?

DOCTOR:

Because he was a very brave and selfless man, Flip, fighting something awful inside him.

KHORALLA:

Self-sacrifice runs deep in our culture. He did it to keep us safe.

DOCTOR:

(LEAVING) Come on, I need to get back to those computers.

SCENE 42: INT. WARD. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS).

DOCTOR:

(HEADING BACK TO COMPUTERS) I thought the Cortex was manipulating Festin behaviour but that's not it. I think it's obeying orders you don't know you've given it. Deep down, I think you want to be dead!

KHORALLA:

That's ridiculous!

HALUS:

Is it?

FX: DOCTOR TYPES FRANTICALLY UNDER FOLLOWING.

DOCTOR:

Your lode cells are attuned to the planet's magnetic fields. They generate and receive electrical information. They help you orientate yourself and allow limited empathic communication.

KHORALLA:

Obviously.

DOCTOR:

Not to aliens like me and Flip. These cells allow you to act as one entity without even realising. You've probably always been a loose neural network, but since you linked through the Cortex, that network's become stronger. You've created a controlling collective unconscious- this 'urge'.

KHORALLA:

And it wants to die?

DOCTOR:

It seems so. I think you've unwittingly made something that once helped your species survive into something that threatens every one of you.

FLIP:

Fine, whatever. How can we do to stop it?

DOCTOR:

Maybe, by understanding it. This hospital must have six or seven hundred patients all connected to monitoring equipment by their lode cells. If I can make a few adjustments to the monitoring set up, I may be able to talk to a simplified version of your collective unconscious.

HALUS:

A simplified version? There are billions of us!

DOCTOR:

Yes.

KHORALLA:

So what use will that be?

DOCTOR:

If I can make a collective isolated here realise what it's doing, maybe I can use it to challenge the collective behind the Cortex.

HALUS:

And switch off the airways?

DOCTOR:

Hopefully, yes.

FLIP:

Seven hundred people though. Is that enough?

DOCTOR:

Think of it as an opinion poll, Flip. It's a small sample but it'll give us an idea of the bigger picture.

FLIP:

We always lie to polls. Mum says it serves them right.

DOCTOR:

Let's just hope the Festin unconscious isn't like your mum.
(STOPS TYPING) There. Let's see if this works.

FX: DOCTOR CLICKS A MICROPHONE. SLIGHT RING OF FEEDBACK.
TONE AND RHYTHM OF BREATHING AND MONITORING IN WARD CHANGES.

DOCTOR:

(GRANDSTANDING) This is the Doctor addressing the 'urge' of the Festin mind.

KHORALLA:

Nothing's happening.

DOCTOR:

Don't make me force you to speak, 'urge'. I assure you- I can.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Thiss iss the Urge. You can be heard.

HALUS:

It's the voice of the Cortex!

DOCTOR:

No, just the voice of this equipment. Listen to me, Urge, there's something I don't believe you understand. Somehow you've come to be a threat to all Festin life.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) No. You have failed to undersstand. Fesstin iss an irrelevance. It hass only one purpose, sself-desstruction to sset the Urge free.

DOCTOR:

That doesn't make sense.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) We are beyond your comprehenssion.

DOCTOR:

Try me, you might be surprised.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) We are not of your realm, it iss beneath uss.

DOCTOR:

You're from another dimension?

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) In your parlance. Yess.

DOCTOR:

Then what are you doing here?

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) An error occurred. We became anchored in thiss Sspace- wrapped in matter and sserial time, woven into every creature living here. Unimaginable torment.

DOCTOR:

Explain.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) We can not, thiss ssliver of oursselvess iss insufficient.

DOCTOR:

All right. But, what are you doing here- the roads, the Nihilists...?

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) We wissh to re-enter the true reality. We have engineered thiss world'ss desstruction to allow that. The Fesstinss have made roadss that can channel our will, ssent rocketss to a sstar they have caused it to die.

DOCTOR:

The space programme... All it was ever for was to take warheads to Guitonus!

HALUS:

But the last rockets were a hundred years ago!

DOCTOR:

And it takes conventional rockets about a hundred years to travel two light days.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Energy from that sstar death will ssoon sspill through the airwayss- the Fesstinss will ssee their insignificance joyoussly as it ripss them apart and releassess their inner energiess.

DOCTOR:

An enormous Nihilist circuit channelled through lode cells. (HORROR) You're engineering a planet-wide thought fuelled by death.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Thiss world will become a glyph of our will, a ssigil opening up a doorway to our freedom..

DOCTOR:

The airways. That's it! They're arranged like a sigil from one of the first forbidden texts.

FLIP:

What is a sigil?

DOCTOR:

A sort of magical symbol, from a book I wish I'd never seen.

FLIP:

Then we're alright, aren't we? Magic's not real.

DOCTOR:

Whether it works or not, this vile 'Urge' still intends to kill billions. It's an abomination.

KHORALLA:

Then tell it won't work!

DOCTOR:

It won't listen. It believes in magic, or the little piece we have here does.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Our belief iss all that iss required- our belief given the power of a billion perfectly aligned deathss. It will rip open thiss sshroud sspace and return us to the light.

HALUS:

No, you can't do this. We'll stop you!

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) How? It hass been in motion ssince the firsst livess sstirred here.

DOCTOR:

So, the previous Nihilist outbreaks?

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Jusst the unssound who were triggered too ssoon.

KHORALLA:

My Bav was not unsound!

DOCTOR:

So this whole civilisation exists solely so you can obliterate it?

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Yess.

DOCTOR:

(REVULSION) Then you're not from a dimension higher than ours. Your dimension is unthinkably beneath us. Know this- Urge, I will defeat you.

FX: COMPUTER AND MICROPHONE OFF WITH A BLEEP AND A POP. NORMAL BREATHING AND MONITORING RESTORES.

DOCTOR:

I just don't know how.

SCENE 43: INT. WARD. NIGHT.

FLIP:

Doctor. It can't be long now...

DOCTOR:

I know! I know!

KHORALLA:

Halus- you understand the roads. Can't we bring the circuit down somehow?

HALUS:

I doubt it. Not before the energy from Guitonus hits.

DOCTOR:

We'd have to destroy the whole Cortex.

FLIP:

Well, can't we do that?

DOCTOR:

Not quickly. It's a planet-sized neural network.

FLIP:

Can't we block the rays then, stop them getting here?

DOCTOR:

What with? It's a star. You can't just blot it out with an umbrella!

FLIP:

Can't the TARDIS do something?

DOCTOR:

No! Well, perhaps in theory... but it's insanely dangerous, Flip. You'd have to generate enormous, space-warping mass to even nudge the energy off course. The only way to do it would be to invert the ship's dimensions and extrude its interior into normal space.

FLIP:

So do that!

DOCTOR:

Even if it could be done it'd almost certainly destroy the TARDIS. It might well be as dangerous to space-time as what the Urge has planned.

FLIP:

Alright, what about the drugs Dakeem used then? If we can get those to people it might suppress the Urge a bit.

DOCTOR:

We don't have the time! We need to think of something we can do with the resources we have.

FLIP:

Could we mess up the traffic? The Urge is relying on the Cortex to arrange the roads like its sigil thing, yeah? But if we sent some cars out to get in the way..

DOCTOR:

I suppose that might redirect some of the energy but what could one or two vehicles do?

HALUS:

They could do something! And if they were firing out link pulses, they might weaken up the circuit shape...

FLIP:

Hang on, Khoralla- you said we were flown here from the accident, yeah?

KHORALLA:

Yes.

FLIP:

So there's air ambulances?

KHORALLA:

Bays of them.

FLIP:

How many?

KHORALLA:

I don't know, fifty or sixty?

FLIP:

So if we set fifty or sixty ambulances going without drivers like Halus did with his car...?

DOCTOR:

You know, Flip, that's brilliant! It wouldn't be much, but with pulse-links breaking up the road patterns and the police trying to bring them in, it might just disrupt the sigil.

FLIP:

Really?

DOCTOR:

It's worth a try! Even if it only dissipates a tiny bit of energy it may save some lives.

FLIP:

Right then! Show us these ambulance bays, Khoralla!

FX: FLIP, KHORALLA AND HALUS START RUNNING. FLIP STOPS.

FLIP:

Doctor?

DOCTOR:

I'll be with you in a moment, I'm going to have one last try reasoning with this 'Urge'.

HALUS:

(CALLING BACK) Flip?

FLIP:

Alright! I'll see you soon! (RUNS OFF)

DOCTOR:

(A BEAT, SIGHS) Right. To the TARDIS then.

SCENE 44: INT. AMBULANCE BAY. NIGHT.

FX: VAST HANGAR. OPEN TO SKY ON ONE SIDE. AIRCARS FLY OUTSIDE. FLIP, KHORALLA AND HALUS RUN IN.

FLIP:

Down here?

KHORALLA:

Yes.

PILOT:

What are you doing? This area's emergency pilots only!

HALUS:

Are you an emergency pilot?

PILOT:

Yes!

HALUS:

Good.

FX: HALUS PUNCHES OUT PILOT. BODY HITS DECK.

KHORALLA:

Halus! What are you doing? He's out cold!

HALUS:

We don't have time to talk and we need a lode key tuned to these vehicles. Help me carry him to the nearest one.

SCENE 45: EXT. PARK. NIGHT.

FX: DOCTOR PANTING AS HE RUNS DOWN THE PATH TOWARDS THE TARDIS. ITS EXTERIOR HUM, FOREGROUND. OCEANIC SWIRLING FIZZY HISS BUILDS IN UPPER SKY.

DOCTOR:

(HALTS, PATS TARDIS) There you are, parked in the park!
(RATTLES FOR KEY) How are we for time? (LOOKS TO SKIES,
EXASPERATION) No, it's already starting!

FX: DOCTOR OPENS THE TARDIS AND RUNS IN. MOMENTS LATER IT DEMATERIALISES.

SCENE 46: INT. AMBULANCE BAY.

FX: SKY HISS BUILDS.

HALUS:

(IN AMBULANCE) Right, I'm launching the ambulance... now! (HE BAILS OUT)

FX: AMBULANCE LAUNCHES INTO NIGHT, SIREN GOING, PULSE LINE ZAPPING!

FLIP:

Nice work!

KHORALLA:

It's heading straight for a junction point!

FX: PULSE-LINKING AND SWERVING AIRCARS. HORNS.

FLIP:

Come on, let's get our pilot to the next one!

HALUS:

Oh no, the sky...

KHORALLA:

It's beginning to pinken, isn't it?

HALUS:

Not just that! Guitonus there- it's glowing white!

SCENE 47: INT. TARDIS. DAY.

FX: FLIGHT HUM. DOCTOR WORKING AT CONTROLS INTENTLY.

DOCTOR:

(TYPES) Right, architectural configuration re-routed to real world interface.

This is going to hurt a lot, old friend, but I'm afraid it's kill or cure. It might well be both. (FLICKS SWITCH)

FX: JUDDERING, WARPING, SPACEY EFFECTS AND CREAKS. PITCH SHIFTING ECHO TRAILS.

DOCTOR:

(SCREAMS IN AGONY)

SCENE 48: INT. AMBULANCE BAY. NIGHT.

FX: ROAD CHAOS IN THE SKY. POLICE AND AMBULANCE SIRENS. HORNS. PULSE-LINKS. SWERVING. BIG SWIRLY SKY HISS BEHIND.

HALUS:

(AWE) Look at it! Those swirls of light in the upper sky...

KHORALLA:

Don't!

HALUS:

Even if it ends up destroying us, it is stunning.

FLIP:

Halus! We need to launch this next ambulance!

HALUS:

Maybe I could pilot it? I could cause more disruption at the controls- really get into the thick of things.

KHORALLA:

No, you're more use launching a series of these than you are doing something impressive with one. We've seen enough self-sacrifice.

FLIP:

Will one of you give me a hand!

SCENE 49: INT. TARDIS. DAY.

FX: TARDIS IN CHAOS. RATTLING, EXPLOSIONS, PITCH SHIFTING TRAILS. DOCTOR TYPING WILDLY.

DOCTOR:

(AGONY) Keep going! I know it hurts but please, keep going! It doesn't matter if it kills us- we've got to do this!

SCENE 50: EXT. SKY. NIGHT. [NO DIALOGUE]

FX: AIRCAR CHAOS. AMBULANCES BUZZING BY FIRING PULSE-LINKS. PRANGS AND SCRAPES, CARS LOOPING OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS. ENFORCEMENT SIRENS APPROACHING. GRAPPLE LINES FIRING. SKY FIZZ FADING.

CROSS TO:

SCENE 51: INT. AMBULANCE BAY. NIGHT. [CONTINUOUS]

FX: TRAFFIC CHAOS DISTANCE. SKY FIZZ DISSIPATING.

FLIP:

Help me lift this pilot!

HALUS:

Flip... Look up.

FLIP:

No! I don't want to hear how lovely it is, I don't want any despair, or anything! We're here to save as many people as we can. Now come on!

KHORALLA:

No, Flip, look. It's Guitonus. It's vanished.

FLIP:

What? It can't have exploded completely! Can it?

KHORALLA:

It's not there. It's like it's been blotted out the sky.

HALUS:

And the aurora light's fading too. The energy's not going to arc down!

FLIP:

(REMEMBERS) 'Blotted'...?

He's done it, hasn't he? The thing he said was too dangerous. It's the Doctor. It must be. He's tricked us!

FX: SKY FIZZ FADES OUT.

KHORALLA:

How?

FLIP:

He sent us out of the way so he could go off and be all heroic, on his own! Using the TARDIS to deflect energy from Guitonus.

HALUS:

So how long will he have to do that for?

FLIP:

I don't know. How long does a supernova give off dangerous rays?

KHORALLA:

It might be a long time.

FX: DOCTOR ENTERS.

DOCTOR:

(TIRED) Well, to be truthful, that's a slightly grey area.

FLIP:

Doctor!

DOCTOR:

Flip!

FLIP:

Hang on, if you're not up there in the TARDIS...

DOCTOR:

Don't worry, I am. Or I have been, anyway.

FLIP:

You're in two places at once! Isn't that cheating?

DOCTOR:

Nonsense, I'm in one place at once. The there I'm in out in Space is a good few billion miles off. It's also easily a day ago.

FLIP:

You look tired. Are you... older?

DOCTOR:

Every second. Aren't you? Let's get back to that ward.

GRAMS: TIME LAPSE.

SCENE 52: INT. WARD. DAWN.

FX: KHORALLA, HALUS, FLIP AND DOCTOR ENTER.

HALUS:

Through here.

DOCTOR:

Of course! Yes! This brings back memories!

KHORALLA:

We were only here a few minutes ago...

FLIP:

How long have you been away, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Not easy to say. It took an awful lot of mass to bend the energy of Guitonus away from Festin, and that amount of mass does strange things to Space and Time. It's played havoc with the TARDIS' interior dimensions. Took an age stuffing everything back in.

FLIP:

How long?

DOCTOR:

It's been a long couple of days.

FX: DOCTOR POWERS UP COMPUTER AND MICROPHONE. THE WARD INSTRUMENTS AND BREATHING ALTER.

DOCTOR:

Hello Urge.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) Doctor.

DOCTOR:

You remembered! I'm touched. That must mean we're both still alive and reality's intact. Well, I'm pleased, even if you're not. Just wanted a word before plugging you back into the main Cortex. I wanted to tell you you'd lost. Your kind always does.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) The Urge will triumph, Doctor. We sshall regain perfection.

DOCTOR:

I shan't hold my breath waiting. You've been defeated once. You will be again.

CORTEX:

(COMPUTER) You cannot desstroy uss.

DOCTOR:

No, but then I wouldn't want to. Destruction's what you crave, and for that- you deserve to live. Enjoy your punishment. Let the rest of you know it failed.

FX: COMPUTER OFF. WARD RESTORED.

HALUS:

You let it live!?

DOCTOR:

I had to. To destroy it you'd have to burn this whole world.

KHORALLA:

So, it's still there? In the Cortex... and all of us?

DOCTOR:

Yes. It's locked into your biology, and it'll try to escape again.

KHORALLA:

So, what can we do?

DOCTOR:

You'll have to be vigilant, question your instincts, question the Cortex. Trust each other. Together you can make this world serve you.
Shall we go, Flip?

FLIP:

Where?

DOCTOR:

Anywhere you like.

FLIP:

You're on!

SCENE 53: EXT. PARK. DAWN.

FX: ALIEN DAWN CHORUS. BACKGROUND AIRCARS. FLIP AND DOCTOR STROLL HOME.

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry we missed the opera, Flip.

FLIP:

Hey, I got to play 3D Dodgems instead. I think I still win.

DOCTOR:

I'll organise something else- a banquet for all the senses. Fine food... helicopters... chandeliers!

FLIP:

Can't we just have something a bit smaller... more human?

DOCTOR:

What do you suggest?

FLIP:

Punch and Judy and a bag of chips?

DOCTOR:

Perfect! (STOPS AT TARDIS) Here we are. (UNLOCKS DOOR) Coming?

FLIP:

Doctor, you know how similar to Festins we look?

DOCTOR:

Yes.

FLIP:

Well, could the Urge be in us too?

DOCTOR:

I don't know. The Urge we spoke to seemed to think it was a local phenomenon.

FLIP:

Yes, but that was just a little bit of it. It didn't know its full self.

DOCTOR:

But who does? - Come on, Flip.

FX: THEY ENTER SHIP. DOOR CLOSES. BEAT. DEMATERIALISATION BEGINS.

GRAMS: END THEME.